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Steve Lopez/Las Vegas

Handicapping Iron Mike

Still troubled, Tyson rolls the dice on redemption in Nevada

IT ISN'T MECCA AND IT ISN'T LOURDES, BUT LAS VEGAS IS right up there among the holiest places in the world. In our hearts, we want to take foolish risks, pile food on our plates, dress like proles and shamelessly applaud lion tamers and dancing girls. Our lives are lies until we make the pilgrimage to Vegas and cleanse our souls.

New Jersey wants to be Las Vegas, but it falls short. Mike Tyson can tell you that. Kicked out of boxing for munching Evander Holyfield's ear in a prizefight at the MGM Grand on June 28, 1997, he asked forgiveness in New Jersey earlier this summer, but the devil entered him and cussed like a sailor.

Then last week Iron Mike was involved in a three-car fender bender in Maryland that allegedly turned into a scuffle. Now imagine the poor blokes in the other cars who see Mike Tyson bulling out of a car driven by his wife. Do you cover your ears? Do you run for the hills? Montgomery County police say two second-degree assault charges were filed against Tyson after he allegedly threw a punch at Abmielec Saucedo, 62, despite a bodyguard's efforts to restrain him, and then went to the other car and kicked Richard Hardick, 50, in the groin.

Good lord. He bites, he bullies a near pensioner, he kicks in the worst possible place. This may be a dangerous thing to say, but what a sissy.

Alleged sissy. Tyson denied the charges through an attorney and has an Oct. 2 court date to explain himself.

But first, on Sept. 19, he will make the holy trek. He will seek salvation in Las Vegas. The fallen former heavyweight champ is scheduled to ask the Nevada Athletic Commission to reinstate his boxing license. It's the fight of his life, not counting his 1992 rape conviction, and if a random sampling of gamblers is any indication, he's going to win. Henry Beste, 41, an actor who lives here, explained it in two words: "It's Vegas."

"It's big money," said Theron Turner, 28, an account rep for a Los Angeles payroll service.

Beste and Turner were checking the lines at the MGM sports-book center. If two rats race across a street in New York City, Vegas has a line on it. But strangely, there are no odds on Tyson's chances for reinstatement.

"I'd say 7 to 1," Turner said. And he'd lay money on Tyson, despite Mike's Maryland adventure.

It might not be a bad bet. It is boxing, after all, which is nearly as dirty a sport as politics. If Tyson was allowed to fight despite a rape conviction, how long can the commission ban him for mere biting and carrying on? Just put him in the ring and let Marv Albert call the fight.

"I want to hear what he did in the past year to rehabilitate himself, and I want him to reassure me [biting and other bad behavior] won't happen again," said commission chairman Elias Ghanem.

Former heavyweight champ Joe Frazier says Tyson calls him and claims he wants to straighten out his life. "But then he goes and gets the crazies again. [If I were Tyson] I would kiss the ground to get my license back."

It's not as if Tyson hasn't made an effort. He did host a picnic for 300 kids and didn't beat up any of them. He also slapped a \$100 million lawsuit on former handler Don King for alleged mismanagement, which has to win him brownie points. To establish his growth potential, he served as an honorary referee at a pro wrestling match.

And look what Tyson's ear nibbling did for Mills Lane, the former Reno judge who refereed the bout and disqualified Tyson while Holyfield looked for the top of his ear. "I wouldn't be sitting in this hotel room in New York if not for that fight," Lane said after taping a segment of his new Wapneresque TV show. He also got a book contract out of the deal.

Every day, a new cultural milestone in America.

"That was my friend who found the ear," said Chris Harry, 27, a cleaning man at the MGM Grand, who'd like to see Tyson back in the ring if he can calm down.

Kay Hawthorne, 62, of Detroit, was having her picture taken in front of the MGM lion along with a childhood buddy. Give Mike a break, said Hawthorne, who thinks he got railroaded in the rape case. "Speaking as a woman, I know if a man asks me up to his room, it's not for no cake and candy."

Viva, Las Vegas. Not a sinner in the house.

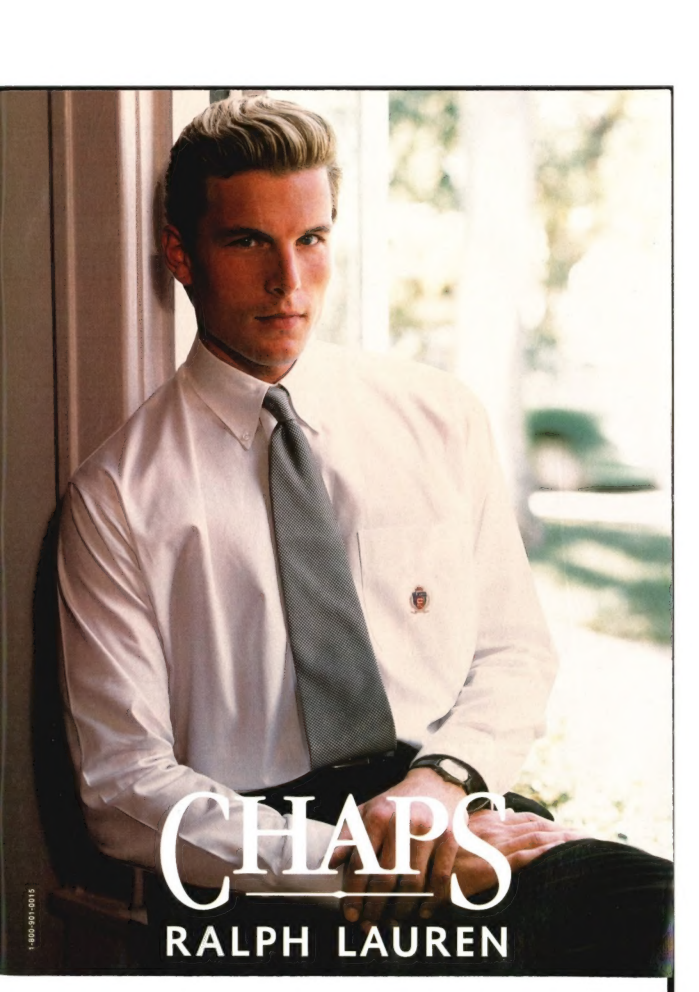
Put tape over your mouth, Mike; stay inside your car, and you could be looking at \$20 million to fight some stiff with the punching power of Orrin Hatch. And if you snap again at the hearing, there's always wrestling. Biting, kicking and eye gouging are encouraged. —With reporting by Andrea Sachs/New York



Asking for forgiveness—and flipping out—in New Jersey

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREA SACHS FOR NEWS

“[If I were Mike] I would kiss the ground to get my license back.” —JOE FRAZIER



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TO OUR READERS

Spend Time with Our Kids

THIS WEEK TIME FOR KIDS joins students heading back to school after the summer hiatus. For the fourth year in a row, our young publication will be distributed weekly to classrooms nationwide throughout the school year.

This week's TFK cover story is one that our editors, and undoubtedly many students, have been following closely for the past three months: the Mark McGwire/Sammy Sosa home-run derby. Will the story take on the controversy surrounding McGwire's use of possible performance-enhancing supplements such as creatine? "We'll mention it, of course," says TFK managing editor Claudia Wallis. "Many kids know it's part of the story. We have to respect that."

TFK's appreciation for the curiosity and intelligence of young readers is a key to its growing popularity. Published in two editions, for intermediate (Grades 4 through 6) and elementary (Grades 2 and 3), TFK will have a combined circulation of 2 million this year. Perhaps the best indicator of the magazine's success is the 1,600 letters and e-mail TFK receives each week from students, parents and teachers. "Kids know we really respect their opinion, so they want to tell us what they like," says TFK intermediate-edition senior editor Martha Pickerill.

TFK plans to expand its education mission this year by adding several bonus editions to the regular 26 issues. Three of these issues will focus on the environment and encourage kids to find ways to get involved in their own communities, something they already show a penchant for doing.

As readers, kids favor stories about sports, animals and space. But that doesn't mean they shy away from weightier issues. One of last year's most important stories examined the topic of



land mines—an everyday threat to kids in a number of countries. The story drew hundreds of letters. Nor did the magazine avoid the White House sex scandal or the tragic death of Princess Diana last year. "Kids tell us they like to feel that they're doing real reading," says Leanna Landsmann, TFK's president. "It makes them feel grown up."

Teachers say they appreciate the reading challenges TFK presents. A teacher from Maine wrote recently to praise the magazine for "treating kids as the citizens of the world that they are."

Finally, parents are enthusiastic about TFK for the dialogue it initiates with their children. Teachers report that after reading TFK, the vast majority of students talk to their parents about what they have learned. "Kids get really excited when they see their parents reading similar stories in the regular edition of TIME," says Pickerill. Ann Reimus from Pennsylvania wrote to say she and her husband "love politics and follow the news. TIME FOR KIDS has sparked that interest in our son."

That convergence is no coincidence. TFK regularly taps the rich global repertoire of TIME staff members. "We have access to the great journalists at TIME and work like a real newsmagazine. None of our competitors can say

that," says Wallis.

TFK's success has not gone unnoticed. Last year, the first year for which it was eligible, the magazine won the prestigious Educational Press Association Golden Lamp Award for general excellence. We like to think TFK takes after its parent.

Bruce Hallsted
 President

LETTERS



"It's Nobody's Business But Ours."
"This is not about Clinton's private life. It involves the President, who had sex with an employee in the workplace and then lied about it."

Daniel John Sobieski
Chicago

AFTER SEVEN MONTHS OF LIES, DECEPTION, frivolous legal maneuvering and constant attacks on independent counsel Kenneth Starr, Bill Clinton thinks all he has to do is bite his lower lip, confess and tell Americans it's time to move on [SPECIAL REPORT, Aug. 31]. We simply cannot abide by a standard that says it is O.K. for a President to engage in an extramarital affair inside the White House with a 21-year-old intern, lie under oath and then engage in side-tracking the inquiry seeking to uncover his wrongdoing. We cannot, as a nation, afford to remain indifferent and silent regarding this man's conduct.

Douglas G. Vetter
New York City

I HOPE THE LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRY, including the Supreme Court Justices, will consider the wisdom of allowing a sitting President to defend a civil suit while in office. The disruption, destruction and divisiveness our nation has experienced over the past months have been exhausting to the people and paralyzing to our leaders.

Jerry King
Gretna, La.

CLINTON ADMITTED HIS MISTAKE (TO A certain degree), then spent the rest of his Aug. 17 speech attacking Ken Starr. But Clinton brought this on himself. Couldn't he just say, "I'm sorry. It was all my fault. I misled the American people and my family, and I am the only one to blame"? No. He basically blamed Starr. Enough is enough. It's time for a change.

Justin Dudley, 15
Iowa Park, Texas

OH, MY GOD! THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. is ... human!

Patricia Becker-Spellman
Stevenson Ranch, Calif.

AS AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL WHO HAS dealt with adolescent behavior for nearly three decades, I have found that it is

not very difficult to distinguish between those who are truly sorry for their misbehavior and those who are only sorry they got caught. Most other Americans can tell the difference too.

John Capanna
Pasadena, Calif.

THE SIMPLE WORDS OF THE REV. JIM CASH in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* provide meaningful commentary on the Clinton-Lewinsky matter: "There ain't no sin and there ain't no virtue. There's just stuff people do. It's all part of the same thing. And some of the things folks do is nice, and some ain't nice, but that's as far as any man got a right to say."

Donald A. Herron
Sugar Land, Texas

"AN INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP" IS what Clinton called it; a shameful disgrace to the office of President of the U.S. is what it is.

Thomas L. Brinson
New Bern, N.C.

I, LIKE PRESIDENT CLINTON, WILL DO anything to avoid the prying eyes of self-righteous demons like Starr and his horde, who show such utter contempt for privacy.

John Brouwer
Alliston, Ont.

CLINTON AND HIS LIES HAVE COST AMERICAN taxpayers millions of dollars. It is not Starr who is responsible but the President through his sex-crazed actions. How can people defend this immoral man? Where has our morality gone? Following the President's, I, grieve.

Gerald S. Kupkowski
Cheektowaga, N.Y.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE ENDED this long ago by not answering questions that no one had any business asking. If others are so quick to condemn Clinton for not being a saint, they should rightfully welcome intense public investiga-

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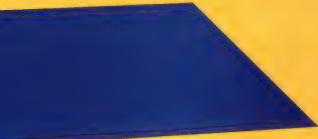
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tions into their own sex lives. If only perfect Americans who have never lied should be elected, then 99% of the politicians in office should resign at once.

*Caroline Kim
Cleveland, Texas*

THIS CLINTON WHITEWASH HAS HAD enough spin. It's time for a rinse!

*Tim I. Martin
Corona, Calif.*

YOU REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S APOLOGY. I must have missed it. All I heard in Clinton's speech was apology and putting the blame on others.

*William M. Witty
Dallas*

AMERICA SHOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE A human being, not a robot, as President.

*Leny Heinen
Asbach, Germany*

Hillary Stands by Her Man



Among the 1,600 or so messages that TIME received on President Clinton's confession speech [SPECIAL REPORT, Aug.

31], several came from readers questioning exactly when Hillary Rodham Clinton found out the truth about her husband's dalliance with Monica Lewinsky. The White House reported that Hillary learned of it only the weekend before the President's speech, but many of those who wrote us thought that was uncharacteristically gullible for the First Lady. A suspicious Gary E. Jordan of San Rafael, Calif., believes this is just the White House trying to slant the news. "Playing up the sympathy angle that Hillary is a 'victim' and didn't know Bill was lying is just more spin, spin, spin," opined Jordan. "Hillary is up to her collarbone in lies and deception." From Portland, Ore., Brenda G. Morrill wrote, "The idea that Hillary was the last to learn is hardly credible—this from a woman who has said, 'I probably know him better than anyone in the world?'" Not everyone was as cynical, however. Taking the high road was Katie S. Atkinson of Norfolk, Conn.: "I am amazed at the strength, character and faith shown by Hillary. If she can forgive him, then why don't we?"

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WHILE CLINTON CONFESSED, IT WAS without remorse. But there's no doubt that he sure is one sorry President!

*Wendy Turner Weidner
Mechanicsburg, Pa.*

THIS IS NOT ABOUT CLINTON'S PRIVATE life. It involves the President, who had sex with an employee in the workplace and then lied about it. If the average guy looks cross-eyed at a female co-worker these days, he is out of a job or in court or both. Why is Clinton immune?

*Daniel John Sobieski
Chicago*

THE FAULT, DEAR WILLIAM, LIES NOT IN our "Starts" but in ourselves.

*Benjamin A. Horowitz
Cleveland Heights, Ohio*

MONICA LEWINSKY WAS AN ADULT AT THE time of the "inappropriate relationship" with President Clinton. She should be adult enough now to apologize to Clinton's wife and daughter for playing with their lives. Not all the blame should fall on the President.

*Carin McKee
Hyde Park, N.Y.*

THE PRESIDENT, WITHOUT REGARD FOR his family or country, has acted immorally. A man whose first concern after doing wrong is his own embarrassment does not belong in the Oval Office. A man who cannot control himself has no business running a country.

*Jennifer Davis
Albany, Ore.*

CLINTON WAS UNFAITHFUL AND LIED TO cover it up, just as thousands of others have done. Then he told people who were snooping around to mind their own business. Good for him.

*Cedric Vendyback
Kelowna, B.C.*

SO WHAT MESSAGE HAS CLINTON SENT TO Americans? If you have a family, it's O.K. to lie under oath and refuse to discuss details with a grand jury? Clinton's televised speech was neither emotional nor sincere but an insult to the American people. Clinton wants to be remembered as a great President; well, he will certainly be remembered.

*Mike Docherty
Hong Kong*

PRESIDENT CLINTON FAILED TO BE "SLICK Willy" by picking the wrong girl. Were I a man, I would not have chosen Monica Lewinsky in a million years.

*Alberta Crescenzi
Home*

AFTER ALL THAT'S BEEN PUBLISHED ON Clinton's behavior, there must be few literate people in the world who aren't aware that it is something of a risk to accept the word of the U.S. President. Is he different from the average American? That is the question non-Americans are now asking themselves.

*J.H. van der Vyver
Durbanville, South Africa*

WE FOREIGNERS ADMIRE CLINTON AND love him for what he has done for the world. His personal problems do not interest us, and we believe Starr is being used by the Republican Party with promises of a political future.

*Ben Souroujon
Mexico City*

Thoughts of Bob Dole

WE SHOULD HAVE ELECTED BOB DOLE. He is too old to chase interns around the Oval Office.

*Don A. Ellis
Overland Park, Kans.*

STILL, ALL IN ALL, I WOULD RATHER HAVE Clinton as President with his pants zipped down than Dole with his trousers zipped up. Hmm. Perhaps I should start thinking about Newt Gingrich with his lips zipped up.

*William P. Boyer
Dodgeville, Wis.*

Motivation for Attacks?

ALTHOUGH PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE who bombed the U.S. embassies in Africa was definitely overdue [WORLD, Aug. 24], the timing of the retaliation seems to have been motivated by the desire of the President to buttress his sagging image after public humiliation. Is it any wonder that the missile attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan by the American forces have been named "Operation Monica Lewinsky" by many people around the globe?

*Vidyadhar S. Ranade
Zurich*

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE RESPONSE TO atrocities committed by terrorists: more and bigger missile strikes. There are no "innocent" civilians in nations that harbor these criminals. Now that we know who the enemy is, the response time should be much shorter—24 hours or less. This is not a game of tit for tat. This is a real war. Only a firm resolve will put these inhuman criminals back in their cage.

*Edwin M. Allen
Ridgecrest, Calif.*



Daniel Washington


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Before using the Nicotrol Inhaler, you must stop smoking. Do not use with other products containing nicotine. The most frequently reported side effects were local irritation in throat and mouth, as reported by 40% of patients on active drug as

compared to 18% of patients on placebo, and coughing (32% active vs. 12% placebo). The majority of patients rated these symptoms as mild, decreasing with continued use. Stomach upset may also occur (18% active vs. 9% placebo).

The Nicotrol Inhaler may not be for everyone. If you are pregnant or nursing, or have asthma, you are encouraged to try other methods to quit smoking, like educational or behavior-modification programs, first. It's important to tell your doctor if you have a heart or lung disease, or are taking other prescription medicine. Nicotine from any source can be toxic and addictive. Keep this product out of reach of children and pets.

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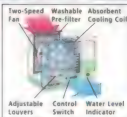
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too). What options remain for them? Not surprisingly, other creatures don't think we are superior just because we can think and speak. Our superiority complex has led to destruction.

Jessica Glass
New York City

Motorcycle Perspectives

ROBERT HUGHES MASTERFULLY CAPTURES the spirit of motorcycling in his review of the museum exhibit of the big cycles in New York City [ART, Aug. 17]. As a 43-year-old emergency-department physician, I took a giant leap six years ago and made the transition from piecing bikers back together to straddling my own BMW R1100 roadster. These wonderful machines offer an escape for the soul and spirit, a place to relish life's victories and reconcile its defeats. But Hughes is correct: you'll have little use for one unless you are prepared to go somewhat out on the edge."

Bobby Mitchell, M.D.
Douglasville, Ga.

AS AN ARTIST WHOSE SOUL FEEDS ON beauty, I was delighted to see your piece on the motorcycle exhibit. My son owns a motorcycle dealership, and I visit him and his shop frequently, for his machines make me feel good. I am always overwhelmed by their design; they are true works of art. Thank you and the Guggenheim Museum for validating my taste.

Eleanor K. Prager
Palo Alto, Calif.

I THINK MOTORCYCLES ARE JAPAN'S REVENGE for the atom bomb. Since 1945, bikes have killed or maimed more Americans than Japanese were killed at Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Mario G. Semere
Los Angeles

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TIME

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NOTEBOOK

VERBATIM

“You have to play by the rules that everyone else has to play by. That’s what this crisis is all about.”

BILL CLINTON,
giving telling advice, in this case to the Russians

“I’ve been getting along fine.”

HILLARY CLINTON,
in response to an inquiry during her Russia trip

“It’s not illegal... but my wife and I—and I hate to tell you this—but my wife and I were separated three times.”

REP. DAN BURTON,
pre-empting questions about his private life

“Boooooo!”

CERTAIN FANS,
after Mark McGwire singled instead of homering in last Tuesday’s Florida game

“It sank. Get over it.”

T-SHIRT SLOGAN
designed by Peter Shankman, a computer consultant fed up with the mania induced by the video release of Titanic



THROWING THE BOMB? Excited perhaps by his consolidation of power, or maybe the start of a new football season, North Korea’s unpredictable Kim Jong Il marked last week by firing a missile (carrying a satellite, he claims) over Japan

Sources: Bill and Hillary Clinton, Burton (Associated Press); Fans (ESPN); Slogan (USA Today)

WINNERS & LOSERS



JOE LIEBERMAN
Senate pal hammers Prez, but this Tough Love may get Clinton out of free fall and cauterize his wound

RALPH ACAMPORA
Prudential’s bear looks good now, as pressure mounts on Goldman’s Abby (“Bull”) Cohen

CYNTHIA COOPER
It’s a repeat MVP, playoff MVP and championship ring for the WNBA’s first great star

AL GORE
More teens know Leonardo than him, poll says. Will this still be true when he’s President?

PEANUTS
Planes to have nut-free zones to protect the allergic. Like the rest of airline food was so benign

PAUL WIGGINS
Steeler tackle gets suspended for using the same muscle pills taken by Mark McGwire





TOPIC A

FEC Audit May Lead to the Mother of All Probes

THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION IS probably the least-feared watchdog agency in Washington, which is why inside the Beltway its nickname is the "Failure to Enforce Commission." That explains why the hottest guessing game in town is figuring out how this nearly toothless body managed to do what volumes of editorial screeds, congressional bombast and urgent pleas from top FBI and Justice officials could not—specifically, push Attorney General **JANET RENO** to the verge of naming a new independent counsel to investigate the financial maneuverings of the 1996 Clinton-Gore campaign. The explanation, says an insider, is that an FEC audit of the campaign, which landed at Justice about three weeks ago, concluded that White House and campaign officials may have intentionally attempted to evade federal election laws by manipulating "issue advocacy" ads funded by the national Democratic Party or state parties into hard-sell vote-for-Clinton-Gore messages. Why is this significant? Because



Louis Freeh

throughout the year, Reno has been able to ignore the entreaties of FBI Director **LOUIS FREEH**, Justice campaign task-force chief **CHARLES LABELLA**, Common Cause and Republican leaders because, she has said, the case did not meet the independent-counsel law's test that there be "specific and credible charges" about the President or some other high official. While the FEC audit contains "no smoking guns, no great revelations," says a lawyer familiar with the case, "the Justice Department bases its interpretation of the law on what the FEC says, and once they say something's improper, bingo. It's specific and credible. The issues seem plain." These ads were produced and designed by the campaign media consultants," says Common Cause president **ANN MCBRIDE**, pointing out that "it's on the public record that Clinton was very much involved in them." Reno



Janet Reno

watchers believe she will soon launch a formal 90-day inquiry into the Democrats' use of issue-advocacy ads to promote the ticket, and the betting inside Justice is that she will ultimately seek an independent counsel. If that happens, officials say, the mother of all IC probes could result, enveloping Clinton and Gore and even Republican standard-bearer **BOB DOLE**, whose campaign also benefited from issue ads like the ones in question. "In the real world," says a senior Administration hand, "it comes down to the whole ball of wax. No self-respecting independent counsel is going to stop at some artificial line."

—By Elaine Shannon/

Washington

LAW AND ORDER

Arafat's Authority Holds First Executions

WHEN A RELATIVE IS CONDEMNED TO death, it's not the usual thing to take out a newspaper ad urging the swift implementation of the sentence. But that is what the **ABU-SULTAN** family of the Gaza Strip did—and it got its wish. Last week the Palestinian Authority of Chairman **YASSER ARAFAT** conducted the first executions in its four years of self-rule when brothers **MOHAMED** and **RAED ABU-SULTAN** were killed by firing squad in Gaza City after being convicted of murdering another pair of brothers, **MAJDI** and **MOHAMED AL-KHALDI**, on a Gaza street. Their trial, in a secretive military court, took half an hour, and they were executed within 48 hours of the crime. The two families had quarreled after a different member of the Abu-Sultan clan was accused of gesturing inappropriately at an Al-Khalidi relative. Police say the family of the condemned men took out the ad in order to prevent revenge from the Al-Khalidis, who had targeted 10 Abu-Sultans for revenge. A senior aide to Arafat says the Chairman opposed the executions but was pressured by members of his Fatah organization. The slain Al-Khalidi brothers were Fatah activists and members of the Palestinian intelligence apparatus.

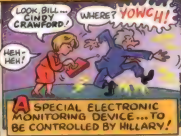
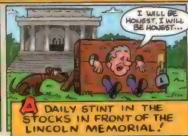
Palestinian cheers news



—By Jamil Hamad/Jerusalem

THE DRAWING BOARD

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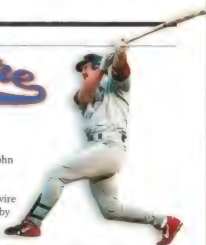
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SOMETHING.





Sosa & McGwire

BY THE NUMBERS



1 Where McGwire's ratio ranks among all players in baseball history

61 The number of times Sosa has been walked

146 The number of times McGwire has been walked

170 Record for walks in a single season, held by **Babe Ruth**

27 Number of McGwire's walks that were intentional

11 Number of entire teams that have received fewer intentional walks than McGwire

0 Number of intentional walks received by **Roger Maris** in his record-setting season

55 Number of pitchers that gave up McGwire's homers

5 Number of pitchers whom McGwire has lit up twice (Tyler Green, Livan Hernandez,

Rick Reed, Jeff Suppan, John Thomson)

9 Number of times McGwire has been retired this year by Kevin Brown of the San Diego Padres, the pitcher who has retired him most often without surrendering a homer

6 Number of times Sosa has been retired this year by Shane Reynolds of the Houston Astros, Pedro Astacio of the Colorado Rockies and Francisco Cordova of the Pittsburgh Pirates, the pitchers who have retired him most often without surrendering a homer

9 Number of games in which Sosa has homered more than once

8 Number of times McGwire has homered more than once

0 Number of National League teams Sosa has failed to hit a home run against

7 Number of pitchers with ERAs

below 3.00 that McGwire has homered against

20 Number of times McGwire and Sosa have homered the same day

\$9,500,000 Amount McGwire makes, excluding bonuses

\$10,625,000 Amount Sosa makes

\$135 Estimated value of a mint 1985 Topps McGwire baseball card

\$425 Value of a mint 1958 Topps Roger Maris card

\$25 Value of a mint 1990 Leaf Sosa card

\$6,000 Value of a 1915 Sporting News Babe Ruth card

All numbers through Saturday, Sept. 5

DAVID JALOWITZ/AP

TORIAN BETHMAN



MARK LIVING - ALBERT LOPEZ/REUTERS

SCRIBES ARE ALREADY scrambling to immortalize in poetry and prose the sensational seasons of Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire, which is why we decided to take a page from the bean-counter's handbook and offer naught but the facts. Here they are, as compiled by our friends at the Elias Sports Bureau.

60 Number of home runs Mark McGwire has hit

58 Number of home runs Sammy Sosa has hit

442 Number of at-bats McGwire has had

558 Number Sosa has had

1/9.6 Sosa's ratio of homers to at-bats

1/7.4 McGwire's ratio of homers to at-bats

60-SECOND SYMPOSIUM

WHOM WOULD YOU RATHER PITCH TO? Mark or Sammy? Sammy or Mark? We asked a panel of baseball greats to tell us which of these sluggers would least like to see coming to the plate against their team with the game on the line.

Ralph Kiner (Hall of Fame slugger): "Sosa is more apt to swing at bad pitches. McGwire would be the tougher one. He is more disciplined."

Harmon Killebrew (573 lifetime homers): "McGwire would be a guy you would fear if you were 60 ft. away from him. But Sosa, he is no slouch either. It is a no win in the end." (left)



Reggie Jackson (563 lifetime homers): "The harder one to strike out is McGwire. That is no slight



to Sosa. That is based on the statistics. However Sosa is a higher average hitter." (center)



John Smoltz (Cy Young winner, Atlanta Braves): "That is like choosing your way to die. McGwire and Sosa are about as good as power hitters can get. I would rather be trying to kick a 50-yd. field goal." (right)

Don Sutton (Hall of Fame pitcher): "Both are red hot. I would prefer not to see either one of them."

News, Newser, Newsest

WAS IT ONLY LAST WINTER WHEN JOURNALISTS were moping about their respective newsrooms muttering, "Isn't anything going on?" These days the greenroom of CNN's Washington bureau looks and sounds a lot like a big-city emergency room on a wild Saturday night.

Get the lawyers out of here! I want the terrorism experts! Are you nuts? With Bonnie bearing down on the coast? We need the meteorologists!

With the ruble collapsing? Yeltsin tottering? Clinton in Moscow? I've got six international economists and Kremlin watchers in make-up!

Hold it! Hold it! McGwire and Sosa both went yard! I need a pretentious sports essayist stat!

This onslaught of news is not mere coincidence. It is, in fact, a rarely understood law of nature—a kind of Harmonic Convergence. Every once in a great while, the emergence of an important news event generates so much energy that it actually produces more news, much as the appearance of a bus, after a lengthy wait, triggers the approach of four or five other buses immediately behind it.

I first spotted this kind of convergence in the fall of 1964. On Oct. 7, in the midst of a presidential campaign, a top White House aide was arrested in a YMCA men's room and charged with indecent exposure. Nine days later—one day after the St. Louis Cardinals won a seven-game World Series against the New York Yankees and the Soviets ousted Khrushchev and replaced him with Brezhnev—China exploded its first atomic device. That same day, Harold Wilson became Britain's first

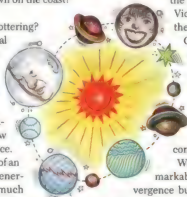
Labour Prime Minister in 13 years. That week TIME put four people on its cover.

Ask a member of my generation for the most dramatic example of Harmonic Convergence, and the answer is sure to be, 1968, of course. I've got a different candidate: the fall of 1973.

Watergate was still dominating the headlines when, on Oct. 6, Egypt and Syria launched an attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holidays. Four days later, Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned. Over the next 10 days, Middle East and Persian Gulf nations organized a total oil embargo against the U.S. because of its support for Israel. And on Oct. 20, one day before the embargo took full effect, came the Saturday Night Massacre. Nixon ordered special prosecutor Archibald Cox fired, Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned in protest, and an honest-to-God constitutional crisis was born.

What makes that 1973 convergence so remarkable is that it was not just a Harmonic Convergence but an Inter-Related Convergence as well. The firing of Cox made impeachment a real possibility, but so did the removal of Agnew, often seen as Nixon's best impeachment insurance. And so did the oil embargo, by delivering a hammerblow to the American economy in the form of higher energy prices, the embargo further undermined Nixon's popularity.

So what about the summer of '98? Well, if the Clinton-Yeltsin summit and the fear of economic collapse lead both McGwire and Sosa to keep hitting home runs in search of enhanced income possibilities, we may really have a brand-new Inter-Related Harmonic Convergence to remember. ■



PROGRESS

THE ASCENT OF MAN, PART LXXXVIII
An evolutionary leap was achieved last week. Herewith, a brief history of the lollipop:

1850s **Prelude**
What a treat!
Small dabs of sugar candy on the end of a slate pencil.
1880s **Experimentation**
An American Connecticut



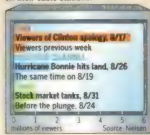
candy merchant puts chocolate-caramel taffy on a stick; it's easier to eat.
1892 **Eureka!**
Connecticut candymaker George Smith adapts hard candy to the stick and gives it a name that sticks too. He calls it the Lollypop, after a popular racehorse.
1924 **Institutionalization**
An American classic, the Dum Dum Pop, is born.



1931 **Competition**
How about a lollipop with a filling? Enter the Tootsie Pop.
1993 **Technology**
The first interactive lollipop, the Spin Pop, is rolled out.
1998 **Multimedia**
The debut of Sound Bites. It plays music in your mouth. Civilization marches on.

DATAPPOINT

TURN IT ON When there's big news—especially big bad news—viewers click on their cable stations.



MILESTONES

CONVICTED. JEAN-PAUL AKAYESU, an ex-mayor from central Rwanda; of genocide; by a U.N. tribunal in Tanzania. It is the first such verdict by an international court. Former Rwandan Prime Minister **JEAN KAMBANDA**, who pleaded guilty to the crime, was sentenced to life in prison.



DIED. JONATHAN MANN, 51, AIDS and human-rights activist who in 1986 founded the World Health Organization's program to fight AIDS; aboard Swissair Flight 111. His wife, **MARY LOU CLEMENTS-MANN**, 51, an AIDS vaccine expert, also died in the crash.

DIED. AKIRA KUROSAWA, 88, cinematic visionary whose visceral and visually compelling films integrated Japanese culture into the global movie idiom and inspired a generation of Western directors; in Tokyo. *Rashomon* (1950), the tale of a murder seen four ways, first brought him fame outside Japan, its title now a byword for the fragility of truth. Even as his samurai epics like *Throne of Blood* (1957) and *Ran* (1985) borrowed from the West, particularly Shakespeare, movies

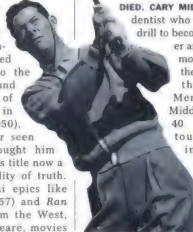
outside Japan borrowed from him: *The Seven Samurai* is at the heart of *The Magnificent Seven*; *The Hidden Fortress* is concealed in *Star Wars*.

DIED. ALLEN DRURY, 80, former Washington reporter who turned political insight into fictional intrigue when he wrote the 1960 Pulitzer prize-winning novel *Advise and Consent*; in Tiburon, Calif.

The best-selling book drew on Drury's years as a *New York Times* correspondent and portrayed the machinations surrounding the nomination of a new Secretary of State. He published 18 more novels, most pertaining to the inner workings of the capital.



DIED. CARY MIDDLECOFF, 77, dentist who traded in his drill to become a top golfer and the leading money earner on the PGA Tour in the 1950s; in Memphis, Tenn. Middlecoff won 40 professional tournaments in his prime playing years, including two U.S. Opens and the Masters.



Why Sorry Seems the Hardest Word to Say

DEBORAH TANNEN, GEORGETOWN professor of linguistics and author, most recently, of *The Argument Culture*, was asked by NOTEBOOK'S Tam Gray to help us understand Bill Clinton's approach to apologizing.

Why are apologies so important?

Apologizing affirms a sense of reality and justice. People have to show they care about the effects of their actions for you to believe they won't do it again.

Do women apologize more than men?

Yes. Men are attuned to whether something weakens their position.

They look for middle ground, like saying, "I'm sorry if I offended anyone." It seems to be an apology but stops short of admitting fault.

Did President Clinton apologize?

Yes. His first statement and his statement from the Kremlin had the key elements of apologies. He admitted fault (saying "I made a mistake," not "Mistakes were made"), expressed regret and promised to make amends ("I am prepared to do whatever it takes").

Polls showed most people were satisfied with that, but many politicians and pundits weren't. Why not?

In the press and politics everything is cast in a *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* scenario. Clinton was defeated, so they wanted to see him act defeated. The average citizen believes it was wrong to deny the affair but sees a difference between covering up a crime and a crime that consists solely of the cover-up.



CONTEST CORNER

WE HAVE A WINNER FOR CONTEST #2!

Our thanks to the legions of aspiring philatelic artists who imagined a design for a stamp that the Postal Service might issue in the year 2050. Among the entries that caught our eye: commemoratives on Bill & Monica, Jerry Seinfeld, Bill Gates, Mark McGwire, John Glenn and, yes, Viagra. After careful scrutiny, though, we give our stamp of approval to *Miggs Burroughs of Westport, Conn.*, for this submission:



ANNOUNCING NOTEBOOK

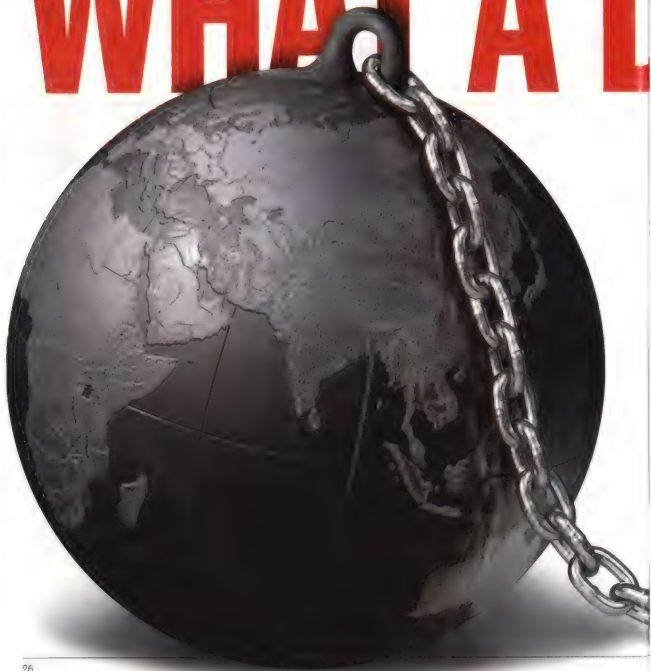
CONTEST #3 It's back-to-school season across America, and everywhere, school-children are being asked to write essays on how they spent their summer vacations. Our new challenge goes to all essayists among our readers: pretend you're Bill Clinton, and write a 50-word composition on how you spent your

summer vacation.

E-mail the entry to Letters@time.com, or fax it to 212-467-1010, or mail it to TIME Notebook Contest #3, Room 2321B, Time & Life Building, New York, N.Y. 10020. Points will be deducted for errors in spelling and punctuation. The excuse that your dog ate your submission will not be believed.

ASIA, RUSSIA, LATIN AMERICA—TROUBLE ABROAD

WHAT A D



THREATENS THE U.S. ECONOMY

DRAWN DRAG!

By S.C. GWYNNE

SMACK IN THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND, FAR FROM both Wall Street and Asia, the 15,500 workers of Harnischfeger Industries, based in St. Francis, Wis., got slammed from both directions. A proud world beater that builds mining equipment and huge machines that produce 70% of the world's printing paper, Harnischfeger has just seen its sales to Singapore and other troubled Pacific Rim countries drop from \$600 million a year to nearly zero. Its stock, riding high at \$44 a year ago, was beaten down to \$16 in last week's market rout, gutting the 401(k) retirement plans of many of its employees. "What I have in Harnischfeger stock is down by two-thirds," says a glum Dave Trench, 57, a machinery stock attendant at a Harnischfeger subsidiary in Nashua, N.H. "When I look at retirement, I might start to sweat." At least he still has his job—for now. Harnischfeger announced in late August that it soon will begin dismissing 3,100 employees, or a fifth of its work force.

Look at Harnischfeger, and you can see the origins of the stock market's grinding 1,698-point decline, a loss of 8% from the July 17 peak of the Dow Jones industrial average at 9337.97. The company also offers a glimpse of what might come next, as American workers and investors like Dave Trench wonder whether the long boom is over. Should they pull their money out of stocks? Does the market slide foretell a recession? How is any of this bad news possible when the U.S. economy seems so strong, with the lowest unemployment, inflation and interest rates seen in a generation?

Like American business generally, Har-



SPECIAL REPORT



WALL STREET

As the Dow tumbled, traders had nowhere to turn for shelter

MAIN STREET

With its Asian sales evaporated, Wisconsin's company's stock price has slid sharply as well

nischfeger entered this turmoil strong and lean. Well-managed with a skilled and productive work force, it had prospered in the past decade's explosive growth in global freedom and commerce. But then came the currency crisis that began in Thailand in July 1997 and spread like a contagion through the rest of Asia—and last month to Russia and last week to Latin America, hammering down local currencies and slashing demand for U.S. exports. Cheaper Asian exports began grabbing more and more domestic business away from U.S. companies and sliced into their earnings. That trend finally drove down an overheated stock market, taking back, in the past seven weeks, almost a quarter of the \$9 trillion that stocks have pumped into U.S. portfolios during the roaring '90s.

When the Dow plunged 512 points last Monday, investors at first regarded it as an irrational response to the financial and political turmoil in Russia—a vast country that still bristles with 7,000 strategic nuclear warheads but whose economy scarcely rivals that of the Netherlands and accounts for less than 1% of U.S. exports. Investors

treated Monday's market action as another of those "dips" in which they had been taught to buy stocks on the cheap. Heck, it wasn't even as big as the one-day dip last Oct. 27, and the market had shrugged that one off within six weeks before powering to new highs and greater glory.

With that in mind, bargain hunters on Tuesday sent the Dow rebounding 288 points, in the second-largest single-day point gain in history. President Clinton, for whom rising stocks have covered a multitude of sins these past six years, tracked the Dow anxiously as he traveled to beleaguered Moscow. During a dinner with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Clinton stopped economic adviser Gene Sperling in the receiving line to tell him, quietly but with palpable relief, that "the market's up" and flashed a thumbs-up sign.

But this time things were different. The Dow fell Wednesday. And the next day. And the next day, losing ground for the seventh trading day out of the previous eight and posting a 411-point, or 5%, setback for the week. Despite the release last week of fresh reports chronicling persist-

ent low unemployment and rising orders for factory goods, anxiety spread from the stock market to the "real" economy of jobs and paychecks. The market drop served as a reminder—one about as subtle as a poke in the eye—that in today's global economy, not even a healthy U.S. can quarantine its factories and offices and markets from the illnesses of countries halfway around the world. It vividly showed Americans how the turmoil in Asia and Latin America is slashing the profits of U.S. corporations, which might be forced to respond with layoffs and cutbacks in spending.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, speaking after the markets closed last Friday, revealed that Fed policymakers are worried that the threat to the U.S. economy from global financial turmoil rivals the danger of wage and price inflation. The Fed is now as likely to cut interest rates, he hinted, as to raise them. "It is just not credible that the U.S. can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress," Greenspan said in a speech at the University of California, Berkeley. Then he headed off to join Treas-



Härnschfeiger, a maker of heavy equipment, announced 3,100 layoffs. The following the retirement accounts of workers who remain



AND BEYOND At the Tokyo exchange, an investor keeps watch on his falling shares

sure Secretary Robert Rubin in a meeting where they urged Japan's new Finance Minister to deal with his country's insolvent banks and other financial troubles, which are dragging down not only the huge economy and financial markets of Japan but also those of other Asian countries—and now the U.S.

Only 21 months ago, with the Dow at 6500, Greenspan was warning against "irrational exuberance" in the stock market. Several other wise elders expressed hope that last week's correction will have the cleansing effect of strengthening the historic relationship between stock valuations and the earnings of the underlying companies—a notion that had fallen out of favor after years of "momentum investing," in which all that mattered was that someone would buy the hot stock that some greater fool would soon bid up to an even higher price. The price-earnings ratio for the S&P 500 has approached a record 30 this summer, twice its historical norm. Securities analysts, reassessing the impact of the turmoil in Asia and other foreign markets, last week began chopping down their estimates for growth of U.S. corporate

profits, to as little as 3% for all of 1998, and zero growth for 1999, a sharp drop from last year's robust 12%.

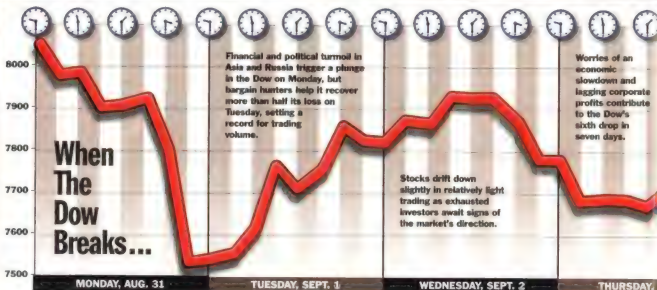
In a bit of lucky timing, Fidelity Investments, the mutual-fund giant, last week rolled out a promotional and educational campaign starring Peter Lynch, its legendary fund manager. Lynch was troubled, he told *TIME*, that "in the first half of this year, the S&P 500 was up 15%, but [corporate] profits were down." He also expressed relief that the correction came now, rather than having the market drop to 7500 "after it's gone up to 14000."

There was remarkably little evidence of panic among individual investors last week. One measure of that is the amount of money that flows in and out of equity mutual funds. In August, a month that included several gut-wrenching weeks, there was a net outflow of \$5.4 billion, or well under 1% of the total invested in equity funds. Though this was the first such exodus since the recession and stock slump of 1990, the number is still quite modest when compared with the 4% that fled equity funds after the October 1987 correction. Last week

investors pulled a net \$6.2 billion out of stock funds Monday and Tuesday, but on Wednesday a net \$6.5 billion flowed right back as the market bounced, according to Trim Tabs Financial Services. "There has not been any retail panic as far as we can see," says Scott Chaisson, a branch manager for Fidelity in midtown Manhattan. "There seems to be an awareness that there are going to be ups and downs like this."

The real test, though, won't come until later, when new investors face the results of their first sustained market decline. An unprecedented 43% of adult Americans are now invested in stocks, up from only 21% in 1990. (That helps explain why we are hearing less Schadenfreude over the discomfort of Wall Street yuppies than in past corrections.) A striking 57% of all household assets today are allocated to equities. Small wonder: the market has doubled just since 1994. But these investors are about to get account statements showing declines of 20% to 30%. Even if they have been in the black over the past 12 months, not to mention the past few years, it will be a shock to be reminded, for the first time in

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years, that stocks can go down as well as up.

Investors large and small who had put money overseas in search of diversification, or simply higher returns, were sorely disappointed last week. Day after day, one giant U.S. bank after another came forward, like sheepish A.A. members fallen off the wagon, to confess they had succumbed to the lure of big returns from Russian investments on which—surprise!—the Yeltsin government has defaulted. Citicorp announced that its earnings for the third quarter will be cut by about \$200 million in Russian losses. The price tag at Bankers Trust, about \$260 million; at brokerage firm Salomon Smith Barney, \$360 million in the past two months.

All told, U.S. financial institutions had losses mounting to \$8 billion by week's end, and one of the fears that drugged the stock market was that U.S. companies might face even larger losses in Latin America, where they have much more exposure (about a third of U.S. exports) and where currencies came under fresh assault late last week. Brazil saw \$11 billion in capital fleeing the country in the past five weeks—not because its economy is weak but because of each investor's fear that other investors might flee any economy slurred with the label "emerging." Money also fled the stocks of financial institutions with lots of business and investment in the emerging markets. Citicorp's stock dropped to about half of its recent high, losing \$40 billion of market value.

Other companies that took major hits were transportation stocks whose business involves trade and travel: the parent companies of such airlines as American, United and

Delta. Companies like Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble and Gillette, which not long ago were praised for their successful penetration of global markets, last week were punished harshly through stock sell-offs. General Electric, the world's most valuable public corporation and one of the most admired, fell 22%, losing \$68 billion of its market value.

The near panic over emerging markets was strongest among some of the hedge funds, the high-risk vehicles that often deliver high returns to wealthy investors. After famed investor George Soros lost \$2 billion in Russia, John Meriwether's Long-Term Capital Management announced that it had

lost \$2.1 billion, or half its asset value, so far this year. "Russia and Asia became the trigger for the correction in the U.S. stock market," says David Wyss, chief economist at DRI/McGraw-Hill, a consulting firm. "Although there had already been a softening in earnings over the past few quarters, traders needed to be hit with a two-by-four to make them realize you just can't get double-digit increases in earnings every year."

Russia also became the trigger for another concern, at once political and economic: "We were suddenly threatened by an old fear—the Soviet Union and militarism," says John Silvia, chief economist at

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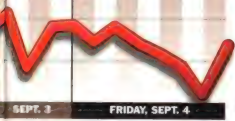
Why Mondays Are Stormy

MOST FOLKS ARE A BIT CRANKY ON THE FIRST DAY OF the workweek, but their Monday blues are nothing compared with those of the stock market. Last week's 512-point plunge in the Dow was just the latest jolt to Wall Street (and international markets) after the weekend—from Oct. 28, 1929, to Black Monday in 1987, to the 554-point dive last Oct. 27. Indeed, half of the 10 biggest drops in the Dow's history, both in percentage and point terms, came on Monday, which has been the worst day of the week for stocks over the past four decades. So what, other than coincidence, accounts for the infamous "Monday effect"? Several academics point to the preceding weekend, which often follows a shaky Friday. That's when individual investors—who do the majority of Monday trading—tend to ponder their investments and nervously peruse speculation in *Barron's* on Saturday and the big newspaper financial sections on Sunday before deciding to bail out. Other experts, like University of Chicago professor Richard Thaler, put it down to basic psychology. "People are just in bad moods on Mondays," he says. And the market, we've come to learn, is only human.

—By Daniel Eassberg



A burst of bargain hunting late in the day erases most of a sharp decline on Friday, leaving the Dow down 411 for the week.



DEEP BREATHS: A Chicago trader assesses the skid

Scudder Kemper Investments. "If the world is not as peaceful as we expected, then a lot of money in the U.S. that went into consumer spending and capital investment may now have to go back to defense, and that's going to shock the budget here."

As the Dow ended its week at 7640.25, it was approaching one of the standard benchmarks for a bear market: a 20% drop from a previous peak. Many investors, though, have been in a quiet bear market for several months; that's because, during the last stages of the run-up in the Dow and the S&P 500, most of the increase was accounted for by such large companies as Coca-Cola and Microsoft; many smaller stocks were left behind. In the S&P 500, virtually all the gains in share prices in recent months were made by the 50 largest. At the same time, the Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks—traditionally favored by many individual investors—was off 29% from its April high. And as of Monday, the average stock on the New York Stock Exchange was off 38% this year. Even before last week, nearly half of U.S. domestic stock funds were losing money for the year.

Several economists see the current market as an untraditional bear market or, as Harvinder Kalirai, an economist at the consulting group I.D.E.A., sees it, what's happening on Wall Street is "a cyclical bear in a secular bull market. This is a cyclical fluctuation." The longer-term or secular trend in the market, though, "is still higher."

Many individual investors also hold that faith. Dennis Lese, 52, an executive with Amoco Corp. in Chicago, says that he is staying in the market but that the six-figure losses he suffered last week have caused him to postpone his planned early

retirement. "I was thinking about retiring and living off stocks," he says. "But now I think I'll work a few more years."

Others seemed content to ride it out, in the knowledge that the gains of the past few years will cushion the impact of a down market now. "Anyone with brains knows the thing to do is to sit back and wait," says Stephanie Rubin, 52, an executive with a search firm in Chicago who has about \$300,000 in stocks. "If it's down 25% on paper, it doesn't bother me because it's money tied up in an IRA account. I'm not going to touch this money till I'm 65."

Some people who were actively playing

the market, however, were singing a different tune. "I was panicking," said Alan Herkowitz, 39, a New York systems analyst and a self-described "short-term trader" who invests "play money" in the market.

One of the biggest worries in a sustained market downturn is that it might depress consumer confidence and spending. Contrary to popular belief, though, big stock market drops alone rarely herald recessions. According to a study by Peter Temin, an economics professor at M.I.T., falling stock prices directly caused only one minor economic downturn in this century, in 1903.

But a slumping stock market can certainly add to the drag on a slowing economy, through the so-called wealth effect. In a rising market, economists estimate that for every dollar of increased wealth, consumers spend an additional 4¢. And they often stop spending that money when their stock gains erode. If \$2 trillion has been lost from investors' pockets over the past seven weeks, then at 4¢ on the dollar we could expect an \$80 billion drop in annual consumer spending, or about 1% of the total U.S. economy. While that alone is not enough to stop the economy from growing, economists say, it could combine with the global currency crisis to tip the U.S. into recession later this year or in early 1999.

A persistent stock market decline can also hurt the economy by making companies more cautious about expansion and hiring. "If the stock price isn't doing well," says John Lonski, chief economist for Moody's Investors Service, "shareholders will put pressure on management to cut costs to improve returns." That usually means layoffs and plant closings, which "ripple through the

A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE

A SHORT-TERM LOSS If you had invested \$10,000 in the S&P 500 at the market's peak on July 17, it would have been worth \$8,206 on Sept. 4, after last week's market drop.

AN EVEN YEAR But if you had invested \$10,000 12 months ago, on Sept. 1, 1997, it would now be worth \$10,827.

A LONG-TERM GAIN And if you had invested \$10,000 on the eve of the big market plunge a decade ago, on Oct. 19, 1987, your investment by now would be worth \$34,450.

Source: Duffinham

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economy" as laid-off people cut spending.

Pushing against these negative currents, fortunately, is the persistent, fundamental strength of the U.S. economy. The trend in wages and employment, which wield far more influence over consumer confidence and spending than stock prices, remains strong. As she placed a tortilla warmer in her shopping cart last week at a store in Nashville, Tenn., Sue Allison, 53, a public relations officer for the Tennessee supreme court, observed that "there are a million people out tonight spending \$90 on nothing, just as I am. My husband and I won't touch [our retirement stocks] for at least 15 years, so I don't worry about short-term losses." In fact, aside from corporate profits and stock prices, most other leading indicators are pointing briskly upward. Orders from American factories rose 1.2% in July, the strongest performance since November. As investors around the globe sought a safe haven for their capital, long-term interest rates continued their slide to 5.3%, a silver lining for the U.S. in the cloud over emerging markets. Those low rates in turn have boosted the used-housing market, which recorded an all-time high of houses sold in July. Housing values, another important factor in Americans' calculation of their wealth, are rising

smartly at about 5% a year. Unemployment stands at 4.5%, nearly a 28-year low, and only 1.8% for those with college degrees. Thanks to rising productivity, real wages have been rising for the first time in nearly three decades without spurring inflation. The U.S. growth rate, while down from its feverish 5.5% in the first quarter, is still expected to register 2%+ for the rest of the year. The only skunk at this picnic is the Asian, Russian and Latin financial crisis, estimated to have knocked about 2.5 percentage points off second-quarter growth of 1.5%.

If recession comes, economists say, the cause will be the inability of countries such as Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Venezuela to buy as many U.S. exports with their devalued currencies—and the hit on U.S. wages and corporate earnings as cheap imports from those countries grab a greater share of the U.S. consumer's wallet.

At Nucor Corp., a \$4 billion North Carolina steelmaker, the global tumult has hit home in both ways. Nucor's exports are down, falling globally from an annual rate two years ago of 700,000 tons to the present 30,000 tons, much of which is accounted for by Asian markets. But far more worrisome is the tough competition in the U.S. market from cheap steel made in Japan,

Korea and Russia. Currency devaluations in those countries have made their products cheap for American buyers, says chairman Ken Iverson. "The U.S. is the only economy left that's doing well, so they're going to ship it all here." That makes America the consumer of last resort—a lifeline to many foreign economies, but at a heavy cost to many U.S. companies and workers. Again, such disruptions quickly get capitalized into stock prices: Nucor shares have fallen from \$61 a year ago to \$39 last week.

Another North Carolina company feeling the pain is Beacon Sweets, which makes, among other products, "gummy watches" (gelatin candy in the shape of a watch). Although most of its business is domestic, Beacon had begun to grow in China, Korea, Singapore, the Philippines and Japan. But over the past year, Beacon has seen its export business evaporate. Says Stephen Berkowitz, an executive vice president: "Our business in those countries has absolutely dried up as a result of currency devaluations."

Perhaps the greatest risk to both the U.S. and global economies is that today's hard times could bring a rising tide of global protectionism, including controls



United States

The Problem(s)

The economy's increasing dependence on stock market; exports suffering as the world economy stumbles; widening income inequality a concern

THE SOLUTIONS

Federal Reserve can lower interest rates to ease economic strains in troubled nations. At home, higher priority for education and training to enhance job skills



Japan

The Problem(s)

The economy has been stagnant for seven years; banks crippled by massive amounts of bad loans; weak political leaders won't make hard decisions; exports hurt by Asian crisis

THE SOLUTIONS

Pass permanent tax cuts to stimulate growth; use taxpayer funds to revitalize banks so they can issue credit again



Germany

The Problem(s)

High unemployment; excessive spending on social programs; high tax rates could threaten German competitiveness under Europe's new single-currency system, the euro

THE SOLUTIONS

Accelerate labor-market reform to allow easier hiring and firing of workers; equalize tax rates before the euro arrives



Indonesia

The Problem(s)

Risk of social upheaval as poverty increases; dysfunctional banking system; absence of investor confidence; large companies closely linked to the government

THE SOLUTIONS

Restructure banks and companies; promote domestic stability; restore confidence of ethnic Chinese businesses



Brazil

The Problem(s)

Massive government-budget deficit; foreign reserves dwindling as the nation defends its currency, the real

THE SOLUTIONS

Overhaul the social security plan and pare back spending to lower the deficit; privatize more government-owned companies to free resources and increase productivity

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not only on trade but also on flows of capital. With the leadership in Russia and Japan virtually paralyzed, and President Clinton distracted by his personal problems, there is a danger that the trend toward freer markets could be reversed. This is already happening in places like Malaysia, which last week imposed foreign-exchange controls hurtful to multinational firms in the U.S. and elsewhere—not to mention to Malaysia itself, which will be hard pressed to attract investment. Nor is the U.S. immune. If unemployment begins to rise, blame will quickly attach to the rocketing U.S. trade deficit—one of the most immediate effects of the crisis in Asia—and will tempt members of Congress to impose new limits on imports. That, more than any other factor, could eventually lead to a significant recession in this country and others. "What we need is leadership," says Hugh Johnson, chief investment strategist at First Albany, a brokerage firm. "Without it, we have a vacuum, and the market always hates that."

For Clinton, much is at stake. The rising market and robust economy have long boosted his approval rating and made both his allies and his adversaries loath to

cross him. A significant downturn in the economy, or a longer stock decline than expected, could make Americans feel much less patient with his foibles, and could embolden his enemies. Studies of polling show that a sour economy in 1973-74 contributed significantly to Americans' disgust with President Richard Nixon in the later stages of the Watergate scandal.

For American investors too, much is at stake. One of the worst things they could do is let rising volatility and uncertainty drive them out of stock investments. Returns on stocks have far outdistanced most other investments over time, producing an average annual return, after inflation, of 6.4% from 1927 through 1995, which includes the period when stocks struggled to regain the highs they reached before the 1929 crash and the Great Depression. Investors can also take heart that the stock market usually bounces back far more quickly than it did in the 1930s. In nine of the 11 months where the S&P 500 lost 4% or more since October 1987, returns were positive within two months of the drop. In all cases, including the 1987 crash, the market returned to positive returns within six

months. As TIME's Dan Kadlec explains in the following story, most investors should stay with stocks, except when handling money they might need within the next three years.

For all its problems, Harnischfeger ofers encouragement to other Americans at this uncertain time. Folks at the Wisconsin company have earned higher wages and have been able to educate their children better because of the profits they have reaped from the unprecedented spread of global commerce and free trade. But the price of that prosperity is a global economy so interlinked that the troubles of America's trading partners very quickly become its troubles too, even when America's domestic economy is showing remarkable resilience, as it is now. Harnischfeger's managers believe they are in for a rough ride for several quarters, but that the company's future, like that of the American economy, is bright over the longer term. Says Francis Corby Jr., the company's executive vice president for finance and administration: "We'll bounce back." They always have. —Reported by **Barnard**

Baumohl, William Dowell and Aixa M. Pascual/ New York, Julie Grace/Mitrawake, Alison Jones/ Durham and Adam Zagorin/Washington



Mexico

The Problem
Low oil prices are slashing government income, causing the budget deficit to swell; the peso is unstable because of highly volatile world currency

THE SOLUTIONS
Political leaders need to set strict limits on domestic spending; the central bank should maintain a tight monetary policy to support the currency



Russia

The Problem
Poor tax collection; corruption; little access to credit markets; creeping hyperinflation; zero credibility that the country will carry out economic reforms

THE SOLUTIONS
Collect taxes owed to pay wages owed; stay committed to free and open markets to stabilize the ruble; overhaul the banks; stop the crooks



Hong Kong

The Problem
The government is fiercely defending an overvalued currency; interest rates are excessively high; real estate is overvalued; a faltering financial sector is burdened by shaky real estate

THE SOLUTIONS
End the currency peg to the dollar; reduce interest rates to ease pressure on the banks



China

The Problem
Falling exports and foreign investments plus damaging floods will slow economic growth below 8% target; a virtually insolvent banking system; state-owned enterprises are drowning in red ink

THE SOLUTIONS
Devalue the renminbi 15% to keep exports competitive; privatize government-owned companies



Malaysia

The Problem
An autocratic ruler is turning toward a controlled economy; foreign investors have little confidence; domestic debt is dangerously high; a serious threat of inflation

THE SOLUTIONS
Revamp the banking system and promote a level playing field in the economy; stick to austerity plan to support the ringgit

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What You Can Do Now

Say goodbye to Fantasy Island. Stocks fall, and here's how to deal with it

By DANIEL KADLEC

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN RIDING so long with the breeze at your back and the sun on your face, a return to the vagaries of normal weather can feel downright depressing. And make no mistake, that's what we're experiencing right now in the stock market: a return to normality, not a "crash" or disaster. But after eight fat years, we've returned to a world where stocks go down as well as up, where our engagement in the global economy brings risks as well as rewards. We're leaving behind the fantasy world where stock prices bear little or no relation to earnings, especially for companies whose names end in .com.

The era of 20% average annual returns from stocks is officially over. Accept it. The market, up as much as 19% this year, has given it all back and could easily finish the year with more losses. We're only weeks from hearing corporate confessionals about depressing third-quarter results. And with Asia's ills spreading to Russia and Latin America, profits overall—for global companies, most acutely—could well decline in the next few quarters. That's part of what has Wall Street so angst ridden, and it's why the investment game has changed fundamentally over the past few weeks. When the market is priced for perfection, a lot can go wrong. So this seems a good time to review some basics.

► Stocks remain your best bet for long-term security; that is, for any money you won't need for at least three years. In 50 rolling three-year periods since 1946, the market produced losses only twice—the



GOODBYE! A businessman pats the snout of a bronze bull in New York's financial district, as if to say, "It's been nice knowing you!"

periods ending in 1974 and 1975, according to the Schwab Center for Investment Research. The average annual return to stocks in the postwar period has been about 11%—far more than for any other financial asset. But as last week reminded us, we do get bear markets. If you'll need the money sooner than three years, it belongs in a bank CD, a money-market account, a short-term bond fund, or possibly a Guaranteed Investment Contract (GIC).

► Wide price swings often signal major shifts in the market's direction, but sometimes they simply reflect confusion. Birinyi Associates reports that daily market moves of greater than 1% are occurring this year nearly twice as often as the historical average. You can make volatility your friend by sticking to a program of regular investing in

stocks or stock funds, preferably through automatic payroll deductions. By investing a set amount each month (known as dollar-cost averaging), you naturally buy more shares when prices are low and fewer when they are high. It's foolproof, so long as your stocks eventually rebound, as they always have in the past.

► Valuations matter. There are companies behind those pieces of paper we call stocks. If a company's fortunes sink, so eventually will its stock. Beware of any company whose price-earnings multiple is greater than the expected annual growth rate for its earnings over the next few years. For example, Coca-Cola's P/E, even now, is 40; its earnings could rise 15% a year. That's definitely not the real thing.

So, what should you do now? That depends on what you've been doing the past few months. I've been suggesting all summer that it was time to prepare for just this

kind of drop. If you've done that, and have some cash and a list of stocks you want to own at cheaper prices, now is a good time to start picking them up. No hurry, though. Based on earnings, most stocks are still at the high end of their historical valuations. Knowing that prices could fall more but that you're unlikely to spot the bottom, this is a good time to start dollar-cost averaging.

If you want to stay in the game but are looking for a relatively safe harbor, consider Real Estate Investment Trusts, whose 6% yields offer unusual protection. Or buy other high-yielding stocks—especially blue chips that you can count on to thrive long-term. High yield today is anything over 3%, a level that may indicate the stock has been unfairly trashed and will do well in coming quarters. Among the highest-yielding Dow stocks are Philip Morris (4.1%), J.P. Morgan (4.4%) and General Motors (3.5%). Other stocks to own might include those of consumer-products companies, a group that lost far less ground than the market this summer. You could also look for value-oriented stock mutual funds, such as Oakmark Fund (which has some of my money) or Mutual Shares (which has been carrying 20% in cash and thus was positioned to scoop up bargains as the market fell).

More conservative plays, but ones that still have an equity component, include convertible bond mutual funds, which hold high-yielding debt securities that can be turned into stock if the market rises far enough; or preferred stock, which carries secure, higher-than-normal yields and is relatively immune to stock market gyrations. If you really want to run for cover, a money-market account is the place. Long-term bonds can be a safe haven from stocks but carry their own risks. They represent a bet on stable or falling interest rates, a great hedge against recession.

If your tolerance for risk is higher, try one of the concentrated mutual funds that I assess in my column near the end of this magazine, in Personal Time. Or invest in the small stocks of the Russell 2000, preferably through an index fund or an actively managed small-stock fund. These small stocks have been beaten down more than their larger brethren, despite having comparable earnings.

If you weren't prepared for last week's stock drop—you had too much money in stocks and now find that your new-car money is gone—don't despair. The worst is probably over. Still, you don't want to risk the grocery money too. You're way ahead if you've been in the market more than a year, so just sell down to your comfort level. But don't overdo it and try to time a further drop. You'll only end up selling at the bottom and cursing the market all the way back up. ■

FEAR REIGNS ON THE FLOOR

By JAMES J. CRAMER

THE BUY-ON-DIPS STRATEGY, THE ONLY ONE YOU NEEDED TO KNOW for this decade, finally failed last week. Investors, including many pros like me, had grown used to taking advantage of every substantial decline in their favorite stocks, but now find themselves deluged with more shares than they can carry in a truck. Why didn't the dip turn back up this time? It certainly had nothing to do with the U.S. Every new economic indicator, from employment to wages, came in stronger than expected last week. But we're now in a market where losses in Russia get translated into margin calls in the U.S., as leveraged fund managers frantically sell anything that's still moving.

As wild as the week may have looked to spectators, in the trenches on Wall Street it was hand-to-hand combat. I tried to make stands on stocks big and small, only to be overwhelmed by huge sellers. Take General Electric on Friday: I bought shares at \$75, then \$74 and then \$73, and then I doubled down at \$72 with 18 minutes left before the bell. For a minute, I wanted a hemlock cocktail, as it flashed on my screen that Microsoft had just overtaken GE as the world's largest capitalization stock. But then the mischievous GE seller disappeared. The stock rose right back to 75 $\frac{7}{8}$, putting the company's total mar-



ket value back above that of Bill Gates and his gang—and, more important, giving me my best trade of the week when I badly needed a win.

Throughout the week, name-brand stocks like Citicorp and J.P. Morgan—stocks that usually trade in eighths and quarters—dropped in two- and three-point gulps. I tried to scoop up some Chase bank shares at \$47, only to be told I had bought it at \$45—seemingly good news, but the stock was at \$44 by the time I got confirmation of the trade. Sure, some of the lack of liquidity might stem from the large number of traders still vacationing, but most of it came from fear—fear that if the sellers didn't act fast, someone would act faster. Those who don't have to look at their positions day to day could feel gratified by the discounts. In my foxhole, though, the battle was to contain the losses and preserve the capital, not to take the offensive, at least not until the political leaders of the world's big economies get together to restore confidence in currencies from the rubble to the real. When they do, the rush to buy will no doubt be as powerful as the market's rise after the Gulf War. So the trick will be to stay in the game until that last seller completes his desperate act and only the buyers are left standing. ■

James J. Cramer, who writes for thestreet.com, is a hedge-fund manager. Nothing in this column should be construed as advice on whether to buy or sell stocks.

Books.

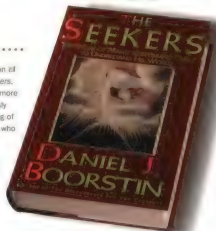
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MOSCOW SUMMIT The world didn't get much reassurance from the inconclusive meeting between two politically impaired Presidents

LOST LEADERS

The current world economic crisis has its roots in widespread political failure

By JOHANNA MCGEARY

WHAT A TELLING PICTURE THE Moscow summit made. Bill Clinton looking weary and spent, his head sunk in his hands, his lips tight in a glum line as reporters badgered him about Monica. Boris Yeltsin next to him, befuddled and disoriented as he struggled to link answers coherently to questions. When a journalist asked whether the Russian President would accept someone other than Viktor Chernomyrdin as nominee for Prime Minister, Yeltsin paused for a moment that grew painfully long. "Well," he finally said, "I must say, we will witness quite a few events for us to be able to achieve these results. That's all."

Huh? The scene crystallized fears that the world's top rulers have lost their direction at a time when leadership is desperately needed to pull the global economy out of its tailspin. If confidence lies at the

heart of finance, Russia stands as a metaphor for how much of it has been lost. Instead of propping each other up at this most surreal of summits, the two key Presidents seemed to be dragging each other down. Clinton's lackluster public performance only seemed to emphasize the feeble condition of his host country. Yeltsin's failing faculties and crumbling power base reflected badly on the strong backing the U.S. has given him. At one level, Clinton's tough-love advice to "play by the rules" of free-market democracy is sound advice, but it may well be ignored. To citizens around the world anxiously weighing the turbulent course of events, the summit looked like Potemkin leadership.

The ill-timed meeting spotlighted how much the financial crisis rippling around the world is not simply an economic breakdown but a political one as well. Russia was exposed as a country with no government and no plan for recovery. The massive dislocations in country after country lay in the mismanagement or malfeasance of top po-

litical and business figures, and the difficulty the world is having in repairing the damage owes much to a set of leaders who are weak, venal or tarnished.

The sweep of the political breakdown is astonishing. In Thailand, where the disintegration of the baht one year ago set off the tidal wave, the Prime Minister presided over a spectacularly corrupt regime. General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, a former army chief turned politician, wasted billions propping up ailing finance companies owned by political cronies. When the currency crumbled under the pressure, he chose to throw good money after bad in a futile attempt to avoid a humiliating devaluation.

Malaysia's cantankerous, 72-year-old Premier Mahathir Mohamad, strongman for 17 years, ran a one-man show with total control over the country's economic machinery. In his obsessive search for respect from the West, he spent lavishly to build the biggest and the tallest—the world's tallest skyscraper, the highest flagpole, the

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

tallest control tower—wasting the foreign investment that streamed eagerly in.

When the country's currency and stock market came crashing down of its own weight, Mahathir blamed outsiders—a cabal of speculators, Jews and enemies of the developing world. To replenish the treasury, he asked the rich to pawn their jewelry overseas and bring the money back to Malaysia. To cut a huge foreign bill for food, he asked people to plant vegetables in their front yards. Last week Mahathir took the bold step backward of withdrawing Malaysia from the global economy, sealing off its currency from outside trade and sacking the pro-market Finance Minister. Absurdly, he also found time to attempt a world record by leading 1,998 Malaysian-made cars in the world's longest convoy.

Indonesia too continued to receive billions in foreign cash despite years of the most egregious corruption and nepotism sanctioned by President Suharto. Apologists argued that funneling contracts to his children did not matter too much since the projects—new roads, factories, airports—did get built. If they cost more than they should have, the projects still contributed to annual economic growth of more than 6.5% for 25 years. When the "corruption surcharge" helped destroy the rupiah and emergency austerity measures threatened to starve a population where almost 50% are now on or below the poverty line, riots drove Suharto from office. In his place came the eccentric B.J. Habibie, who may have good intentions but probably lacks the popular support to translate them into reforms. "Indonesia," says Miranda Goelton, a director of the central bank, "is no longer ruled by one man who can determine everything."

These leaders were guilty as well of believing there was something unique about Asia's economic growth: that it would continue unabated regardless of leadership or official policy. That myth was perfected in Japan, where the entire ruling system was set up to avoid the necessity of any single person's taking responsibility for anything. The country's clan politics worked well enough when there were sufficient spoils to spread around. But when trouble loomed, there was no mechanism to produce a leader capable of making difficult decisions in the national interest.

Japan's crisis, perhaps the root cause of

today's economic turmoil, occurred in slow motion, giving plenty of time for its leaders to step in with the hard but manageable changes required to forestall full-scale recession. Over eight years, land prices crashed and then stock prices, and then the entire banking system threatened to cave in. But the country's politicians and bureaucrats repeatedly buried their heads in vain hopes that the problems would just go away. Having let its own ailments fester for years, Japan was in no position, despite its wealth, to help when its neighbors began to crumble.

At a minimum, Asians expected Japan to contribute by setting its own economic house in order. So far, it hasn't. Japan's leaders still show no stomach for revamping their financial system and slashing regula-

the Communists, Russia has no real political parties, so most of the Deputies vie for power rather than enacting the laws Russia needs. The banks have served all too often as the private preserves of robber barons.

The more the sick nations grasp the failures of their own leaders, the more they long for some outsider to set things right. Fairly or not, the burden of leadership ultimately falls on the U.S. Clinton ought to be the reassurer of last resort, but he is distracted by the Lewinsky scandal, and many are concerned that his personal stature and moral authority are seeping away. His attention to foreign affairs has always been intermittent but surely diminishes the more time he must spend with his lawyers.

Clinton has been a good student of international economics, grasping the inexorable forces that are changing the shape of the world day by day. Some critics fault him for settling for a country-by-country approach instead of trying to build a new world economic architecture. In any case, that policy is foundering as weak governments fail to give the markets what they demand.

More ominously, the much heralded march of market economies and democratization is stalling. Russia is tempted to return to a command economy and strongman rule. The authoritarian impulses of leaders like Malaysia's Mahathir are showing the ugly side of the "Asian values" that were touted as a ticket to prosperity and order. Instead of standing tall, the world's leaders seem hunkered down, adopting timid defensive measures rather than the forceful steps each nation needs. In every country there are very difficult domestic politics that confine leaders, and globalization surely makes life more difficult for statesmanship. To some extent there is an inescapable logic built into the phenomenon: you cannot have both *laissez-faire* and command-control; you cannot say leaders should get out of the way of the economy, then whistle them back to fix things when there's trouble. Yet in the end, trust and confidence can be at least as important as monetary policy or banking reforms, and those, surely, are well within the job definition of a leader. —Reported by Jay Branagan with Clinton, Donald Macintyre/Tokyo, Terry McCarthy/Hong Kong and Yuri Zarakhovitch/Moscow

WHO DEFANGED ASIA'S TIGERS?



MALAYSIA Mahathir blames outsiders for his country's crash

JAPAN The "cold pizza" label does not help Premier Keizo Obuchi

INDONESIA B.J. Habibie lacks the strength to bring real reform

tions that coddle business. No one has shown the interest or strength to break the money links between inefficient industries and the ruling party. Party politics and bureaucratic inertia ground down the reformist plans of the last Prime Minister, and he has been replaced by a cookie-cutter party man with what a Tokyo commentator called "all the pizzazz of cold pizza."

It is hardly surprising that Russia should be hardest hit of all. Its leaders have been in place for only seven years, but in that time they have failed utterly to create viable institutions of power. Under Yeltsin, Russia acquired the trappings of a civilized state: an office of the President, a federal parliament, private banks. But they only looked authentic. The presidency resembled the throne of the Czar, upon which the entire welfare of the nation rested. But the erratic Yeltsin is physically and politically out of touch, having lost control of his Cabinet, the parliament and the people. The Duma, supposedly a representative legislature, is hardly that at all. Except for



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TO BE A KID.

(It's a bad time to be a cow.)

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THE POLITICS O

By RICHARD LACAYO

FOR ONCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT is going to produce a document that won't collect dust on library shelves. Sometime between now and the end of this month, the report of independent counsel Kenneth Starr is expected to be sent to Congress, where it will promptly explode. Washington is bracing itself for a text unlike anything it has ever handled, with interludes that describe, in all too fascinating detail, half a dozen or more anatomical engagements between Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. Depending on how vivid it is, Starr's report could be the closest thing to pornography ever issued by the Government Printing Office.

Even if the most embarrassing parts are walled off in a section made available only to selected members of Congress, nobody expects the wall to hold. Titillating stories that may or may not be from Starr's grand-jury room have been churning for weeks through the Internet and the supermarket tabloids, waiting for mainstream news outlets to pick them up, give them the luster of legitimacy and dispatch them to the wider world. Last week NBC *Nightly News* gravely confirmed a Drudge Report item that Clinton and Lewinsky once had sex after he attended Easter services. No big deal. More scabrous stuff than that bounces regularly from cyberland to Jay Leno without stopping for the niceties of confirmation.

Much as they might enjoy the President's deepening humiliation, and they do, even Republicans are wary. Playing in the mud is a messy game for everybody. Starr's report is likely to mean a new cycle of smutty particulars to be worked over endlessly by the news-entertainment continuum. A public already sick to death of unlauded dresses and dirty jokes about

cigars could blame Republicans for starting and prolonging the whole thing even as citizens turn away in disgust from the President himself.

Republicans have the comfort of expecting that in November voters will be more likely to punish the Democrats. After all, Clinton is the head of their party, while Ken Starr, a chronic loser in opinion polls, is not on the ballot. That's why a vocal and growing minority of Republicans, led by House whip Tom DeLay, is demanding that the full text of the report be made public as soon as it arrives. For different reasons, so did Democrat John Dingell of Michigan. Like many Democrats, he may figure that the details will come out anyway, so it's better to suffer a short, sharp shock than a prolonged drip of leaks.

Everybody else is in unexplored territory and knows it. With so much at stake Democrats in Congress are anxious not to be cut out of the process that decides how the report will be handled. And Republicans have to be careful not to let the whole thing look like a partisan funfest. So this week House Speaker Newt Gingrich will hold an unusual meeting with minority leader Dick Gephardt and other members of the House leadership to decide just who gets to see the dirty parts. The House rules committee has already drawn up a proposal that would have Starr's full text sent at first only to members of the judiciary committee, which has first jurisdiction over any impeachment process. All other House members would get an expurgated summary, though the entire report would be sent to them as well if the committee decided it provided grounds for impeachment.

Even under those rules, House committee hearings could easily turn into peep-show-style government, a prospect that worries judiciary chairman Henry Hyde. As the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill proceedings showed, it's hard to play the role of Olympian legislators while you're asking questions about pubic hair. When

ACCESS
Will Starr's report be too full of sex?

I O N

F YUCK

As Ken Starr's report approaches, Washington is bracing for a storm of all-too-vivid details from Clinton's personal life—and just from his alone

Congress is reduced to picking through salacious details, says Arizona Senator John McCain, a Republican, "we're all tarred with the same brush."

What complicates the matter is that Starr has legal justifications for including anatomically correct details in his report. To back up any claim that the President committed perjury, the independent counsel needs to show that Clinton lied when he told lawyers for Paula Jones that he and Lewinsky did not have sex, at least not by the light of the definition of sex approved by the judge, which was more technical than the instructions for hooking up a vcr. Since that definition hinged upon specifics of who touched what and what went where, Starr will need to spell out just those things. That was apparently why he secretly called Lewinsky back to his offices on Aug. 26 for two hours of wrap-up

questioning so explicit it was the verbal equivalent of a cavity search. The questions involved such intimate specifics that Starr arranged for all lawyers and stenographers in the room to be women.

Another variable in this dangerous game is the question of how long to play it. Polls say most Americans want the matter brought to a quick conclusion. A lot of Democrats would be happy to oblige. The popularity of the censure option, which the White House is not yet ready to accept, is growing fast among Democrats in Congress, especially the ones who face re-election. Cautiously triumphant Republicans are in no mood to let the President off the hook that fast. When Senate majority leader Trent Lott said last week that he didn't think censure was enough, he was signaling that no quick end was in sight.

In the devastating 25-minute denunciation of Clinton that he delivered last week on the Senate floor, Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut stopped short of calling for censure, limiting himself to a more ambiguous call for a "public rebuke." All the same, a stunned White House is worried that his speech, in which Lieberman roasted Clinton's behavior as "immoral" and "disgraceful," will break the spell that has held most Democrats back from putting real distance between themselves and the President. Two other high-profile Democrats, New York's Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Nebraska's Bob Kerrey, followed Lieberman to the podium to say they agreed with him. Lieberman made his speech despite appeals from White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles and Senate minority leader Tom Daschle that he hold off, at least until the President had returned from his trip abroad. But afterward Daschle came up and put his arm around Lieberman.



PERIPHERAL DAMAGE Indiana's Burton admitted to an illegitimate child



THE SPINNED Will Clinton be buried under a flood of muck?

In the charged atmosphere of Washington, the most worrisome possibility for everybody is a dirty war in which the two sides start outting each other on sexual capers of every kind. For months there have been hints from Clinton's defenders that if his personal life was fair game, Republicans could find their own lives dragged into the sport. On *Larry King Live* two weeks ago, the President's brother Roger saw fit to observe that "some of the political people... had best watch themselves because of the old 'glass house' story. Be very careful." In the online magazine *Salon*, a Clinton corner in cyberspace, an unidentified "close ally of the President" said White House hard liners wanted to go after the personal past of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, majority leader Dick Army and Indiana Representative Dan Burton, the unblinking Clinton hater who not long ago called the President a "scumbag," and also chairs the House committee that has been investigating the Democratic campaign-finance scandals.

So there was a shudder around Washington last week when Burton abruptly announced to the press that he and his wife had been "separated" three times during

their 35-year marriage. The Congressman said he made the announcement because *Vanity Fair* magazine was preparing a tell-all profile that he insisted had been inspired by the White House. At a town meeting in Indiana last week, he hinted to constituents that there would be more to tell. "If something comes up that you read about that you think Danny shouldn't have done," he said, "I will own up to it." By the end of the week, Burton had owned up to the Indianapolis *Star* what Indiana political circles had been buzzing about for years: that he had fathered an illegitimate son in the early 1980s. He told the paper he wanted to go public to deflect attention from the boy and his mother.

Burton offered no evidence for his

complaint that the White House was behind the story, a notion that a spokeswoman for *Vanity Fair* dismissed as "judicious." And the charge gave senior Clinton adviser Rahm Emanuel the happy chance to deny it with the observation that the White House considers the private life of

TIME'S ROLL CALL The magazine contacted the offices of nearly all the 435 House members and asked them to tell us confidentially what action, if any, the members would take against Clinton based on what they know now. Most declined to provide

- Should Bill Clinton resign?
- Would you vote for his impeachment?
- Would you vote to censure him but have him stay in office?
- Should he stay in office without formal action being taken against him?

* One Democrat who did not respond to the survey is on the record calling for Clinton's resignation.

A Senator and Old Friend Delivers a Stern Sermon

By KAREN TUMULTY WASHINGTON

IF THERE IS ANYTHING THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD HAVE learned from the most searing scandals of recent history, it is to listen warily to the Senate Chamber—for that is where it is likely to hear the ominous rumble of truth.

In Watergate it came in early 1974, when conservative Senator James L. Buckley called for Richard Nixon's resignation, starting the massive Republican defection that ultimately destroyed him. For the defiant and powerful Republican Senator Bob Packwood, it came in 1993, when freshman Democrat Patty Murray, speaking in a tremulous voice that barely carried to the galleries, found the words that moved the gentlemen of the club into ousting their colleague for sexual harassment.

Such a signal may have come for Bill Clinton last week, when one of his most reliable allies demolished the President's assertion that his relationship with Monica Lewinsky was a private matter and also made the case that it transcended the dry question of whether he broke the law. Connecticut Democrat Joe Lieberman—Clinton's friend of almost three

decades, a politician whose own secure future would have allowed him to remain silent, a devout man with no apparent agenda beyond his sense of right and wrong—called the President's behavior immoral and damaging to the country. In words made all the more devastating by their careful measure, Lieberman said, "The transgressions the President has admitted to are too consequential for us to walk away and leave the impression for our children today and for our posterity tomorrow that what he acknowledges he did within the White House is acceptable behavior for our nation's leader."

It barely mattered that Lieberman stopped short of doing what he had been rumored to be planning, which was to call for a censure of the President. He resisted pleas by White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles to hold his tongue until Clinton's return from Russia and Ireland, and thus underscored for White House advisers the urgency of launching their own battle plan to stanch the rapid deterioration of their defenses on the Hill.

But what Lieberman's speech, with its sonorous biblical tone, seemed to prove is that the White House's emerging legalistic strategy—to shift the focus of the debate from what



Lieberman: a statesmanlike rebuke

specific answers, but 91 did. The survey will be conducted again in future weeks to track the change in reactions as more information is made public.

DEMOCRATS		REPUBLICANS		TOTAL	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
0	26	57	4	57	30
0	26	28	12	28	38
4	19	14	28	18	47
21	2	0	46	21	48

resignation. * Some additional Republicans, who did not respond to the survey, are on

public figures to be "off limits." But a collective chill went across the capital. "There is real anxiety among House Republicans," says a G.O.P. leadership source. "They realize that none of us is without sin. And most of them are obscure; they've never had to deal with intense scrutiny from

reporters and commentators from gossip columnists. Three days later, Bill Press, the onetime chairman of California's Democratic Party who now represents the left on CNN's *Crossfire*, tried out a new line about Representative Burton. He asked former Burton staff member David Bossie

the national media."

To say nothing of a media in the promiscuous mood to which the Lewinsky story has brought it. Last week Fred Barnes, an editor of the conservative *Weekly Standard*, remarked on Fox News that the buzz of the moment in Washington concerns whether Clinton has had sexual relations with a second intern. "If he has," he offered, "that will certainly be dynamite." What he didn't offer was a word of evidence, the thing that used to distinguish

if he thought Burton should resign if he had had sex with a congressional intern. When opposing TV-belligerent Pat Buchanan attacked Press for trafficking in "sleaze," Press replied that "it's a rumor among some journalists," but the next day he apologized for asking the question.

Clinton's defenders are enraged by the prospect that Starr's report will be a dirty book about the President's personal life. The emerging White House counterstrategy is to refuse comment on all stories about sex and hit back strictly against Starr's attempts to catch the President in perjury and obstruction of justice. But a legalistic defense that says the President was telling the truth because what he did wasn't exactly sex is unlikely to go far with most Americans. They figure that sex is sex, no matter what the lawyers say. That makes it all the more likely that the President's side will have to resort to a defense that accuses the other side of sheer hypocrisy about sex because the President's accusers have secrets of their own. And that could mean a lot more private lives won't be so private before all this is through.

—Reported by James Carney, Karen Tumulty and Michael Weisskopf/Washington and Jay Branegan with the President

Clinton did to what insist he didn't do—is doomed to miss the big political mark. Even before independent counsel Ken Starr gets his report to Capitol Hill, the President's lawyers plan to submit their own defense on what they consider the legitimate questions of conspiracy and obstruction of justice, the questions raised by the "talking points" that Lewinsky gave her friend Linda Tripp, by the career help that Clinton and his allies gave Lewinsky, and by the gifts from Clinton to Lewinsky that she left for safekeeping with his secretary, Betty Currie.

Their tactic is one the White House employed to great effect last year during the campaign-finance scandal—the "prebutter." The idea is to put forward information—even the damaging or not-so-believable tidbits—before the other side can, on the assumption that he who spins first has the advantage.

Details once fiercely guarded by the legal team are trickling out with a telling regularity. Sources say, for instance, that the relationship was briefer and more sporadic than generally assumed: Clinton and Lewinsky had intimate encounters about half a dozen times, starting in December 1995 or January 1996 and continuing through April of that year, with one final tryst in February 1997. Currie, reporters are now being told, took the subpoenaed gifts at Lewinsky's request, not the President's. According to this account, Currie stopped by Lewinsky's apartment to pick up a box labeled DO NOT DESTROY, which the sec-

retary stored under her bed until its contents were turned over to Starr. Though the scenario conflicts with Lewinsky's version, and raises the obvious question of why Currie would agree to provide ministration for Lewinsky without the implicit urging of her boss, it would help get Clinton off the hook for possible obstruction of justice. The President's lawyers also leaked word last week that Clinton had tried to put Lewinsky back on the White House payroll last year after she was exiled to the Pentagon by asking deputy director of White House personnel Marsha Scott to meet with her; they also said he made some tentative, unsuccessful inquiries to provide her with a favorable job recommendation. He might have been trying to buy her silence—but if he were really trying, wouldn't she have got the job, or at least the letter?

However successful the White House is in making the case that Clinton did not violate the law, Lieberman won't be the last to argue that the President's conduct should be judged by a higher standard. A West Coast Democratic Congressman says he was stunned last week when a six-year-old in his district was told that the lawmaker knew Clinton and asked, "Does he lie to you too?" And White House aides themselves cannot answer the question that most bothers his party now: Is there anything—or anyone—else?

—With reporting by Jay Branegan with Clinton and James Carney/Washington



Clinton allies say the actions of Scott, left, and Currie show no obstruction

Margaret Carlson

Now Say It Like You Mean It

Clinton was once the master of the apology act. So why can't he fake it again?

FOR THREE WEEKS, BILL CLINTON HAS BEEN ON A WORLD Apology Tour. It started in the Map Room, moved out to sea to a friendly island off the People's Republic of Massachusetts, then went on to the Kremlin and ended in Ireland. Not once, though, did he hit a pure, clean high note. In Dublin he finally coughed out an "I am sorry," but grudgingly, as if he were repeating something for a dense and demanding bunch of whiners.

It has been an odd spectacle for those who expected Clinton would be sorry enough that he'd been caught to be sorry enough to be contrite. The Speech That Would Put This All Behind Us failed by not putting an apology in front of us. And he knew it. As disappointment poured in—not just from the media elite but from his supporters—an expanded apology, although not another speech, was a possibility. The press went on red alert, hoping to cover a full Jimmy Swaggart. But when the vacationing President chose to mention forgiveness—in a chapel, no less—it was in the third person and past tense. He may, in fact, have done some damage. By invoking Nelson Mandela, who did nothing to deserve his captors, Clinton suggested he had done nothing to deserve Kenneth Starr. It was as if Clinton had been fighting for freedom, rather than boffing an intern in the Oval Office.

Most practitioners of the nonapology are politicians who like the passive voice and the conditional. Former Senator Brock Adams never admitted to pursuing anyone but apologized in case he had made "their sensibilities feel affronted." Gibberish is the hallmark of the conditional apology. Newt Gingrich, who pleaded guilty to ethics violations, was sorry "to whatever degree in any way that I brought controversy or inappropriate attention to the House." Senator Alfonse D'Amato said he was sorry "if I've offended anyone," when he knew full well whom he had offended with his buck-toothed, "no tickee, no laundry" mimicry of Lance Ito.

Last week Representative Dan Burton, a vicious critic of Clinton, broke new nonapology ground when he expressed pre-emptive regret for what a *Vanity Fair* reporter might have found in some 200 interviews. Burton suddenly remembered he had been separated from his wife three times. The next day his memory was jogged again when he learned that an Indianapolis paper would report that he had had an affair and fathered an illegitimate child. He wouldn't say more because of "everybody's heart being ripped out" and because "enough is enough." Sound familiar?

Linguistics professor Deborah Tannen tells TIME this week (see Notebook) that men hardly ever

apologize because doing so "entails admitting fault," and that "shows weakness"—and the next thing you know, some stronger type is clubbing you over the head and taking over your cave. That may be why Clinton, in Moscow last Wednesday, felt he had to defend his refusal to apologize for his refusal to apologize. He said he reread his speech and thought it was just fine. That was one nonapology too many for friends like Senator Joseph Lieberman, who led an outpouring of criticism that had, until then, remained under wraps. In Russia, Clinton also volunteered that he was "heartened" by the understanding he'd found in "leaders around the world," a fresh take on the "In France this would be no big deal" defense. You would think Clinton was a recent émigré from Paris, completely taken aback by the customs of the native press.

Clinton's supporters argue he should get credit for not giving a faux-earnest Apology on Demand. But why would Clinton now, after seven months of sustained lying, suddenly choose honesty? His Slick Willie side has always known that the most important quality a politician can have is sincerity. And no politician is better at faking it than he is. In 1980 Clinton was a failed one-term Governor until he apologized for raising car-tag fees and got his wife to drop that fancy "Rodham" business with her name. In 1992 he became the Comeback Kid, miraculously saving a crashing candidacy by quickly apologizing for causing pain in his marriage. So why on Aug. 17 couldn't he live the lie a little bit longer in order to satisfy a huge TV audience looking for a reason not to impeach him, fearing that it would hurt him as much as it would hurt him? For whatever reasons of pride and arrogance and poll numbers, the magic word didn't inch out of him until Friday.

What an irony it would be if the man who won the presidency after claiming he was being unfairly penalized for a woman he didn't sleep with, a draft he didn't dodge and a drug he didn't inhale would lose it over an apology he didn't make quickly enough. This one was wheedled out of him while he showed the reluctance of a child who finally gives in and says, "O.K., O.K., I'm sorry. Are you happy now?"

He's a better politician than that. But never mind. He stopped the bloodletting for now. When the Starr report comes, if it is as damning and detailed as expected, the drama of when and how much he would apologize will be seen as an insignificant sideshow. The main event may be so devastating that no matter how sorry he is, the Comeback Kid will have no comeback. ■

"I deeply regret that..."



Aug. 17

"I'm having to become quite an expert in this business of asking for forgiveness."



Aug. 28

"I have acknowledged that I made a mistake..."



Sept. 2

"I'm very sorry about it."



Sept. 4

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Can Tony Williams Save D.C.?

The top candidate to replace Marion Barry may be his total opposite

By JOHN CLOUD and SALLY B. DONNELLY
WASHINGTON

ANTHONY WILLIAMS STEPS FROM THE chilly comfort of his campaign sedan into a humid Washington night. He has come to a rundown D.C. recreation center in what used to be Marion Barry country for a mayoral-candidate forum. Barry won't be here; after his genuinely baroque political career, the man who immortalized the words "Bitch set me up" has finally stepped aside. In his place stands Williams, who—if polls are right—will win the Sept. 15 Democratic primary (more important than the general election in this one-party town) and become mayor.

While most of the residents are dressed summer casual, their bare legs sticking to plastic chairs assembled on the center's basketball court, Williams is wearing a gray suit, a gray shirt and his trademark bow tie (also gray, though with a few zany paisley figures). "Welcome to forum alfresco," he quips in a typical bit of Ivy League drollery. No one laughs. But Williams is being himself, and the crowd seems to appreciate it. Somehow, in fact, this Yale-talking geek has inspired a city desperate for inspiration.

No one could have predicted his rise. After all, when Williams (who was raised in Los Angeles) first came to the D.C. area in 1993 to become chief financial officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he and his wife actually settled in the Virginia suburbs—a choice that now generates bad-natured ribbing from opponents. More im-

portant, when he did move to D.C. to become its chief financial officer in 1995, he quickly alienated himself from Barry's African-American establishment.

By congressional mandate, Williams couldn't be fired by Barry. With the help of a presidentially appointed financial-control board, Williams used this power to begin dismantling the bloated government Barry had built over two decades. Barry had more or less used D.C. agencies as a jobs program; this governing strategy created a loyal black middle class but eventually ruined city finances. Williams issued pink slips for the first time in years. In many parts of the city he was hated.

He was used to the sentiment. In 1980, still a Yale undergrad, he won a seat on the New Haven, Conn., board of aldermen and quickly took on two sacred cows: black organizations using city money to develop minority-owned firms. Williams thought they were spending the money inefficiently, and he sponsored a bill to cut them loose. Later,

as an official with the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Williams worked to bring developers into struggling neighborhoods—neighborhoods sometimes suspicious of a bean counter wearing a bow tie. (Williams adopted the bow tie because he liked the look of a couple of Nation of Islam guys who worked in the office—though he says the choice was strictly sartorial, not religious.) Still later, when Williams worked at St. Louis' Community Development Agency, two black businessmen angry with his handling of their contracts sent him to

THE CANDIDATE: He picked up sartorial, not religious, tips from the Nation of Islam the emergency room. They yelled "Uncle Tom!" as they busted his nose.

Moreover, even as he challenged black establishments, Williams gathered friends in white ones. He became close to a Yale instructor named Stan Greenberg, who would later become Bill Clinton's pollster (and whose firm now works for Williams' campaign). Greenberg's wife Rosa DeLauro, a Congresswoman from Connecticut, also became a friend. Other prominent New England families helped advance his career.

All in all, when he arrived in Washington, Williams looked about as likely to become mayor as a crack smoker (well, O.K., pick another drug). But by the mid-'90s, the roofs on many city schools were caving in. Thousands of people were dying of AIDS, but management was so abysmal that millions in federal AIDS dollars sat unspent. At perhaps the city's saddest, most surreal moment, morgue officials said they didn't have enough money to refrigerate the dead. Outraged residents—even some hard-core Barryites—began to demand change. Finally, Congress and the White House stepped in, and over the next few months most of the powers of the mayor, city council and school board were handed over to the unelected control board.

As CFO, Williams brought change. Not alone, of course. The fiery economy (and concomitant soaring tax revenues) helped most. But Williams brought accountability to a city where tax officials had literally left returns strewn across the basement of a city building. Under Williams, vendors got paid. Tax refunds got issued on time. The morgue got cold again. Residents in both white and black Washington began to thank him for little things like timely trash collection.

In an improbable tale, this Yale-talking geek has inspired a city desperate for inspiration

even when he alone wasn't responsible.

Williams had also been careful to conduct community meetings (more than 150 in all) to explain his austerity measures in plain language. A draft-Williams movement began—not in a white establishmentarian's home this time, but in struggling Ward 7. In May, after months of saying he wouldn't run, he decided to go for it. The campaign, so far, has been a dream. Contributions flow in like lobbyists into Congress. Williams' main primary opponents are three longtime council members forced to answer at every stop for the various crises the city suffered. Last week opponents began raising 11th-hour questions about Williams' background—before Yale, he experimented with marijuana and hippedom. And even after he traded his tie-dyes for bow ties, he has been flighty, leaving most of his jobs within a couple of years. Others complain that he cut procedural corners when he took over city finances.

None of the charges have damaged him so far (and in fact may have humanized the technocrat a bit). If he wins, Williams' biggest challenge will be to convince Washingtonians that he is mayor for all of them; in some parts of the city, his get-tough policies and conservative mien have given the impression that he's the white candidate. According to a recent *Washington Post* poll, he leads a large field, with 37% of Democrats overall; council member Kevin Chavous is second, with 20%. Among black Democrats, however, who are expected to make up more than two-thirds of those voting next week, Williams' lead slips to 28% over Chavous' 25%. Williams will focus the last days of his campaign on black voters. He often notes that saving Washington—and winning self-government back from Congress—has broad racial significance. Under Barry, he says, "the government of Washington took on the character of an African-American-managed enterprise. Quite frankly, I think it is vitally important we show that this can be the best-run operation in the world."

Williams has hired an important black activist, Phillip Pannell, as an adviser, and Pannell opened a campaign office in Ward 8, Barry's home turf. Williams also sought and won the endorsements of two key Barry confidants. Williams is on a roll now. Two years ago, he was awkward at community meetings, but he has learned a common touch. At the basketball-court forum, he patted shoulders and grabbed forearms—physical gestures once uncomfortable to him. And he's telling a more personal story. He is the adopted son of postal workers who raised eight children, he says over and over. He earned his way. He's asking voters to remake the city in his image. So far, they like what they see. ■

The Things Kids Say

Chicago police face questions as murder charges are dropped against two preteen boys

MARGARET HAMPTON WAS SURPRISED when a *Chicago Tribune* reporter phoned her with the news that suspects had been arrested in the murder of her 11-year-old granddaughter Ryan Harris. "I thought it was a 17- and an 18-year-old," Hampton told *TIME*, "not seven and eight." Hampton's shock reverberated around the U.S. as Chicago police charged two preteen boys with the August murder in the city's grim Englewood district, declaring the pair had confessed to killing Ryan

coerced, or that the police said that the boogeyman is going to get you. They'd just say anything to get out of the room." One report had the boys agreeing to confess after being offered Big Macs.

Prosecutors refused to rule out the possibility that the boys would be charged if new evidence is uncovered. But police are circulating pictures of two men in their mid-20s around Englewood. The 7-year-old's mother told reporters that one of the men had offered her son to us after the murder.

Her son, she said, saw the man "hurt Ryan."

There had been questions about the boys' culpability from the beginning. It was hard to imagine the pair dragging Ryan's body from the point where she was said to have been knocked off her bike with rocks across the street to where it was eventually found. Said Hampton at the time of the arrest: "There are too many adults that are nosy. They would have seen her dragged across that street."

There was discussion among the investigators as well, with the



WHO KILLED HER, THEN? Ryan Harris, above, was a fierce athlete and fervent protector of her siblings; one of the boys arrested for her murder is escorted home after being charged last month

for her brand-new bicycle and molesting her body with a tree twig. But Hampton was still puzzled. Police at the scene when Ryan's body was discovered had told Hampton that "a lot of semen and stuff" had been found on her granddaughter's body. Rarely do boys the age of the suspects produce semen. Still, police detectives were adamant the boys knew too much about the murder not to be involved. But Hampton told *TIME* shortly after the arrests. "Those are babies, just like my other grandkids. You can't put anything past kids, but I just feel somebody else is involved."

Last Friday, Chicago prosecutors dropped the murder charges against the two boys, citing a crime-laboratory report that confirmed that semen was found on Ryan's underpants. "I was concerned about this confession from the start," says Cook County public guardian Patrick Murphy. "You're worried about kids this young saying anything. It's not like they were scared into—or

beat cops complaining about being big-footed by detectives. Englewood residents generally trust the uniformed cops, calling the detectives "slick boys." And despite public avowals, there was doubt among the detectives themselves. A violent-crimes detective called *TIME* before the charges were dropped to track down a potential witness mentioned in the magazine. He admitted that he believed the police may have accused at least one of the suspects wrongly. The older boy, he said, "got scared and rode away" when Ryan fell from her bike.

The boys, remanded to home detention by a judge, are free to return to school. Englewood residents are now claiming police coercion and racial bias in the case. The police deny any misconduct. "These babies just did not do this," says Shirley Blanton, a close friend of the families. Now, to celebrate, she says, "the whole neighborhood is going to have a barbecue"—except, perhaps, for the kin of Ryan Harris. —By Julie Grace/Chicago

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NO SAFE HARBOR

A plane crash off Canada rekindles several air-safety controversies

BY NADYA LABI

PEGGY'S COVE WAS BORN OF A SHIPWRECK. Legend has it that the tiny hamlet on the coast of Nova Scotia was named for a woman pulled back from death at sea by a local sailor. The only survivor of a doomed ship, she was nursed back to health by her rescuer. They fell in love and married. Such romances and heartening miracles are woven into the visions of the village. At St. John's Anglican Church, two paintings that frame the altar serve as founts of meditation: in one, a fisherman clinging to a tattered sail searches for a lighthouse amid a storm; in the other, Christ walks on the waters not of the Sea of Galilee but of Peggy's Cove. Thus when a plane—not a ship—went down off the cove last week, the seamen of the area felt the old instincts of rescue stir in their veins. What they found, however, was neither romantic nor miraculous. And what moved in their blood was a chill.

Fishing boats, navy ships, even a passenger liner combed the waters off the Canadian coast. Visibility was poor, and in hindsight it was for the best. "We picked up women's purses all blown to pieces as if you put them in a meat grinder," said Eugene Young, who usually fishes the waters for pollock, hake and cod in September. "You had to go awfully slow, because if someone was in the water, you didn't want to run them over." His image of an abattoir was apt. "There was not one bit of hope. Someone's belly here. Intestines over there." Despite the comfort of cove legend, out of the wreck of Swissair Flight 111 came not even one survivor from the 229 people onboard.

What emerged instead was a fearsome slew of questions born of other disasters. As the slow search for debris, bodies and the telltale "black boxes" proceeded—a ritual so morbidly familiar from the TWA Flight 800 crash two years ago—speculation reached for existing paradigms that would explain the fate of a plane belonging to an airline of

sterling reputation. What is known of the cockpit's communications with air-traffic controllers appears to rule out terrorism. But not the terror of mechanical failure. And so the questions were asked. Was it a problem akin to what most probably destroyed TWA 800—a stray spark igniting gases in a fuel tank? Or was it some hazardous, poorly packed cargo like the kind that destroyed ValuJet Flight 592 over the Florida Everglades? Or was it something else, some yet unknown and insidious little technicality?

Swissair Flight 111, an MD-11 jumbo jet built by McDonnell Douglas in 1991, left New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route to Geneva, Switzerland, promptly at 8:18 p.m. E.T. Not quite an hour later, at 9:14, the Swiss pilot, Urs Zimmermann, radioed, "Pan! Pan! Pan!... We have smoke in the cockpit" to the control tower in Moncton in New Brunswick, Canada. (Pan is an international distress signal less urgent than Mayday.) The pilot requested diversion to Boston, but when told that

W O R L D



Halifax, only 70 miles away, was nearer, he responded, "Prefer Halifax." When the plane was about 30 miles away from the airport, Zimmermann advised that he needed more than that distance to land. He was told to turn left to lose altitude. Still descending, the pilot next reported, "We must dump some fuel." At 9:24 he declared an emergency, saying, "We are starting to vent now. We have to land immediately." The plane was cleared for dumping. Six minutes later, it disappeared from the radar.

There are 179 MD-11s currently in service, 119 of which are dedicated to passenger travel. The jet, a descendant of the DC-10, has technology that allows it to be steered during an emergency by alternating thrust on the two underlying engines even if the center engine in the tail explodes and severs all hydraulic control lines for the rudders and elevators—as in the case of a DC-10 that crash-landed in an Iowa cornfield in 1989. The Swissair MD-11 successfully underwent a thorough inspection just over a year ago, and Swissair's safety-and-maintenance record is solid. But did this model have a history of wiring problems? Since 1992, the FAA has issued a number of airworthiness directives expressing concerns with the electrical systems of MD-11s. Though A.D.s are not necessarily unusual—the FAA issues 400 a year for problems of varying degrees of urgency—several of those issued on the MD-11 refer to potential

fire hazards. A 1996 advisory mandated the installation of an extra control-cable guard in response to "reports of burnt electrical wire cable in the cabin attendant console that was caused by the chafing of the wire cables." Another, in 1997, sought to correct "chafing of wire bundles" that could cause smoke in the cockpit.

"An airplane always telegraphs its intention to crash years before it actually does. If I'm right, this one did too," says Arthur Wolk, an aviation attorney who represents plaintiffs in airline crashes. "There have been feetwide problems in wiring. If I were an investigator, I'd be looking for fire in the wiring bundle, which spread to the cockpit or to a critical flight control." Such speculation is perhaps inspired by the conclusion of the investigation into the crash of TWA 800 near Long Island on July 17, 1996. That disaster's likely cause: exhaust heat from the Boeing 747's air conditioners transformed its fuel into a hot vapor so combustible that a mere spark, possibly from a frayed wire, touched off the disaster.

Then there is the ValuJet theory. On May 11, 1996, spare oxygen-generating canisters stowed as freight aboard ValuJet Flight 592 ignited and sent the DC-9 plunging into the Everglades. The generators had been mistakenly marked empty, and the crew never knew that the plane was carrying hazardous material. Could similar undeclared baggage have doomed

Swissair 111? In 1990, air personnel discovered undeclared hazardous cargo—usually because it leaked or emitted a smell—on 63 occasions; by last year, that number had ballooned to 349. Shippers are still not required to disclose to air carriers the contents of their parcels—not even if they contain hazardous materials.

Four months after the ValuJet plane went down, a Federal Express DC-10 was forced into an emergency landing at Newburgh, N.Y., because of fire in its cargo hold. The captain reported smoke at the same altitude as Swissair 111—33,000 ft.—and began to descend. Eighteen minutes later, the FedEx crew was sliding down ropes and chutes from the plane, which burned steadily for more than three hours after landing. The cause of the fire was never pinpointed, but investigators discovered such undeclared items as aerosol cans and plastic bottles containing acidic liquids, prompting the National Transportation Safety Board to warn that "the transportation of undeclared hazardous materials on airplanes remains a significant problem, and more aggressive measures are needed to address it." Lee Dickinson, an aviation engineer and a former NTSB member, cautions against premature comparisons. "We don't know yet whether or not the smoke cleared up in this case. We don't know how dense it was or where it came from." He adds, "Just because you see smoke doesn't necessarily mean there's fire." At week's end none of the 60 body parts recovered had burn marks.

THERE IS LUCK AND THERE IS FATE. MAHC Rosset of Switzerland was eliminated from the U.S. Open tennis tournament in the first round. Ranked 47th in the world, Rosset, 27, decided to stay on in New York for practice with the best players in the world. He and his coach canceled their plan to fly to Geneva—on Swissair 111. That was luck.

Then there was Pierce Gerety, 56, a director of operations at the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, who was in charge of such trouble spots as Rwanda and Burundi. He was used to danger, had dodged bullets, and once negotiated the release of his staff when they were kidnapped in Somalia. "He was always ambivalent about being in safe places," says his younger brother Tom. "But we were relieved when he was transferred to Geneva." Then came fate. On Wednesday, Gerety, late for one flight to Geneva, was transferred to another. Finally he was bumped to a third. It was Swissair 111.

—Reported by Leigh Anne Williams/Peggy's Cove, Harriet Barovich/New York City, Mark Thompson/Washington, Jerry Hannlin/Cape Canaveral, and Helena Bachmann/Geneva



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MISSILE WITH A MESSAGE

While North Koreans starve, Kim Jong Il shows off his new technology

By DONALD MACINTYRE TOKYO

SAY THIS MUCH FOR NORTH KOREA'S quirky leader, Kim Jong Il: he knows how to get the world's attention. Early last week, a powerful new missile lifted off from a secret base on North Korea's eastern coast and streaked toward Japan. Dumping its first stage off the western coast of Japan, the rocket sped high over the country and plunked down into the Pacific Ocean. But it packed a political wallop that resounded in capitals from Tokyo to Washington. The message: North Korea may be broke and short of food, but the Stalinist state has a dangerous new toy.

With a range of up to 1,240 miles, far greater than anything else in the North's arsenal, the Taepo Dong-1 can reach all of Japan—and the 41,000 U.S. troops stationed there. The missile also raised the prospect of new threats to the U.S. and its allies in the Middle East, where Pyongyang sells its missiles to clients like Libya and Iran. More worrisome still is what the launch says about

Pyongyang's aggressive missile pro-

gram. Some experts believe North Korea is well on the way to building even more muscular missiles, capable of reaching Alaska, Hawaii and even the western part of the continental U.S. Says Republican Congressman Curt Weldon, a member of the National Security Committee: "It's the first time a rogue state has launched a multistage missile. It's extremely disturbing."

Why fire the missile now? The launch undoubtedly impressed potential weapon buyers. Missile sales are Pyongyang's biggest source of foreign exchange, peaking at about \$700 million a year in the late 1980s, according to South Korean analysts. But revenue has declined to about \$50 million as Pyongyang's clients have found other suppliers. With its economy imploding, the country desperately needs hard currency. "What they are doing is demonstrating a new product," says a senior Administration official.

North Korea's leaders probably calculated the launch would also thrill audiences at home, to set the stage for this week's celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the

founding of North Korea by Kim's father, Kim Il Sung. Last week the North Korean parliament, meeting for the first time since Kim Il Sung died in 1994, honored him with the title of permanent President (enhancing the truth of the slogan THE GREAT LEADER IS ALWAYS WITH US). Kim Jong Il doesn't need the title of President. He has used his authority as commander in chief and head of the ruling Workers' Party to run the country. Last week, he was awarded the power to declare war, sign peace treaties and control the defense industry, underscoring both his control and the growing role of the armed forces. Meanwhile, the meet-and-greet functions he so dislikes have been palmed off to the chairman of the Presidium. Marking the milestone with a nifty new mis-



BRAND-NEW TOY

TAEPO DONG-1: Two-stage medium-range missile
 Range: up to 1,240 mi. (2,000 km)
 Payload: 500 lbs. (230 kg)
 Height: 82 ft. (25 m)

The stages of the North Korean rocket came down on either side of Japan



WHEN IT COMES TO brinkmanship, like father, like son

sile could be a way to distract a country on its knees: famine has killed an estimated 2 million people in North Korea since 1995.

The U.S., however, was also a prime target audience. The launch came just hours before diplomats from both countries were due to sit down in New York City to iron out a minicrisis that erupted over the North's nuclear ambitions. U.S. spy satellites revealed a massive excavation northeast of Pyongyang that suggested the North could be attempting to revive a nuclear weapons project they had agreed to shelve. It's still not clear what is going on at the dig. Some analysts guess that the project is a kind of bluff, an attempt to leverage the impoverished regime's only real bargaining chip: its ability to threaten its neighbors. Unveiling a new missile would fit nicely with that strategy. "This may be a way of poking us and saying, 'Pay attention to North Korea. We can still be a pain in the neck,'" says Joel Wit, a senior associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center, a Washington-based public policy think tank. The delayed negotiations resumed Saturday in New York, and State Department officials reported progress in the talks. They will brief the White House this week.

North Korea clearly doesn't think the U.S. has been taking it seriously enough of late. Pyongyang agreed to shut down its nuclear facilities in 1994 in exchange for two new reactors that don't produce bomb fuel and a yearly gift of 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil for conventional power plants. Washington also agreed to roll back sanctions. The hard-won deal brought both sides back from the brink of war. But Pyongyang is frustrated over what it sees as foot dragging in Washington. The reactors are behind schedule, and so are the oil deliveries.

Pyongyang may have a point. The Administration, U.S. critics complain, has moved on to crises in other parts of the globe, putting the 1994 agreement on autopilot. What's more, the White House underestimated how much money it needed from Congress to pay for the oil, which costs about \$55 million annually. This year it asked for only \$35 million, hoping to pass the tin cup among its allies. That hasn't worked, since many countries question why the world's leading economic power can't come up with the money. But U.S. lawmakers are even more reluctant to bankroll Pyongyang after Monday's launch. The Senate quickly passed legislation requiring President Clinton to certify that North Korea is not developing nuclear weapons or exporting ballistic missiles to terrorist nations before providing more fuel oil. If approved by the House, the requirement could kill the 1994 agreement.

Still, the Taepo Dong-I should help to refocus the thinking of policymakers in

An Insider's View of Kim Jong Il

BACK IN 1994, KIM JONG IL WAS WIDELY SEEN AS A PALE COPY OF HIS FATHER, lacking his charisma and revolutionary credentials, with a taste for fast horses, fine cognac and dancing girls. In fact, the portrait of Kim as a politically inept playboy with a goofy pompadour was always off the mark. Independent analysts have said many of the stories about Kim's eccentricities and decadent life-style have been exaggerated, possibly by South Korean intelligence. One of the men who knows Kim best, Hwang Jang Yop, is the highest level North Korean official ever to defect to South Korea. In an exclusive interview with TIME, Hwang painted a portrait of the younger Kim as a ruthless leader who learned early on how to manipulate those around him, starting with his father.

Uncomfortable with a crowd, Kim compensated by flattering and cajoling the right people. Hwang remembers a 1959 trip to Moscow, when he was personal secretary to Kim Il Sung. The son, then 17, hung on his father's arm as he came out of a hotel room. At other times young Kim rushed to help his father put on his shoes. Says Hwang: "He was very skilled at winning people over, including his father."



Defector Hwang was secretary to Kim Il Sung

So skilled, in fact, that Kim was running things well before his father's death, according to Hwang. Selected as heir apparent at a secret Politburo meeting in 1974, Kim was effectively co-leader of the country by the mid-1980s. He replaced the old man's supporters with his own clique and siphoned off important reports for himself, leaving his father in the dark. Rivals got shut out. After Kim ordered party members to stay away from his stepbrother Kim Pyong Il, even casual contact with Kim Pyong Il, who is now ambassador to Poland, became risky. ■

Washington. It is light-years ahead of its predecessor, the Nodong-1, a one-stage rocket with a range of up to 620 miles. Multiple-stage vehicles require expertise in guidance systems and other tricky technology. Thus last week's launch means the North is a step closer to building intercontinental ballistic missiles that could reach the mainland U.S., according to Richard Speier, a Carnegie Foundation consultant and former missile proliferation expert at the Pentagon.

What can the U.S. do? Certainly a "surgical" strike with cruise missiles à la Sudan and Afghanistan is out of the question. Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is 138 miles from Pyongyang, and the North has enough artillery to flatten it before a war even got into full swing. The U.S. is looking at antimissile defenses for more distant potential targets, but they are costly and nowhere near deployment. The so-called Theater High Altitude Area Defense missile program—billed as an improvement on the existing Patriot system—has been plagued with troubles. But pressure to pour money into such systems could grow

as North Korea and other hostile states roll out increasingly sophisticated weapon systems. "The simple fact is, the largest loss of life we've had in a hostile action in the 1990s was when those kids were killed by a Scud in Desert Storm," says Congressman Weldon, referring to the 28 U.S. troops killed in their barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. "The outrage is that seven years later, we don't yet have a system to prevent that from happening again."

At week's end, military analysts were investigating claims by North Korea that it had put a satellite into orbit with last week's launch. The North Koreans say the satellite is for the peaceful exploration of outer space, but it also will beam tunes back to earth, including *The Song of Marshal General Kim Jong Il*. So far, listening stations haven't picked up any signals. But if Kim has spent millions on a song-singing satellite while his country is starving, he will retain his position as one of the most bizarre leaders in the world. —With reporting by

CNN's Mike Chinoy/Pyeongyang, Stella Kim/Seoul, Mark Thompson and Douglas Waller/Washington

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"WE WANT BILL!": A warm welcome for the President in Belfast

The Tonic of Peace

A besieged Bill Clinton is cheered in Ireland for America's role in helping to end the Troubles

By BARRY HILLENBRAND

NORTHERN IRELAND, WHERE THE PAINstaking peace process has been rocked by horrible killings in the past few months, hardly seems a promising destination for a politician searching for a bit of uplift and optimism. But last week after two fruitless days in Moscow, President Bill Clinton flew into Belfast to a warm welcome from cheering crowds and to celebrate what, despite bombings and burnings, still looks like a major foreign policy triumph for his Administration. "The people of Northern Ireland," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair in welcoming Clinton, "owe you a deep debt of gratitude. No President of the United States has done more for peace in Northern Ireland than you." No one would argue with Blair.

Even as the President stepped off the plane, there was another sign of progress. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger dashed up to Clinton and handed him a newspaper that carried a banner headline announcing that David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and the First Minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly, had agreed to hold a one-on-one meeting this week with Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army. "This is the

headline we wanted to see," Berger told a beaming Clinton.

Indeed it was. Trimble, throughout the long months of the peace negotiations, had stubbornly refused ever to speak directly to Adams because of his affiliation with the violent I.R.A. In the days preceding the President's arrival, Adams, after lobbying from Clinton, made a series of crucial statements which made the meeting possible. Adams said the violence "must be for all of us now a thing of the past, over, done with and gone." This fulfilled a Unionist demand that the I.R.A., through Adams, replace their cease-fire with a permanent denunciation of violence.

The following day Adams said that Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator and a hard man, with an impeccable reputation with the top command of the I.R.A., would become the liaison between the I.R.A. and the international commission that is to arrange the disarming of Northern Ireland's paramilitary forces in accordance with terms of the Good Friday agreement. "In a few months' time," said Adams, "when the Assembly is up and running, people will say

none of this would have been possible without the President's trip."

But Clinton was not always assured that his visit would be a success. On Aug. 15 a violent republican splinter group calling itself the Real I.R.A. set off a powerful bomb in Omagh, a rural market town in the north. Twenty-eight people were killed and 220 injured in the single worst attack in the 30 years of fighting between Protestants and Catholics. The Real I.R.A. hoped the outrage caused by the bomb would be so great that the peace process would grind to a halt. Instead, the carnage inflicted by the bomb was so indiscriminate and terrible—Catholics and Protestants, women and children, old people and teenagers were among the dead—that all parties to the conflict rushed to isolate and crush the terrorist elements.

Adams, for the first time, "unequivocally condemned" a republican bombing. With unprecedented haste and over the objections of civil rights advocates, the governments in both Dublin and London required only two days to pass new anti-terrorist legislation, which will make it easier to send terrorists to prison. The leaders of the Real I.R.A. fled their homes in the Republic, and the organization seems to be on the run.

The hope that some good can be salvaged from an evil act is a painful and recurring theme in Northern Ireland. Clinton touched on it when, out of the sight of cameras, he—along with the First Lady, Blair and his wife Cherie—visited the injured survivors of the blast in Omagh and then unveiled a plaque to the dead that said simply, "May their memories serve to foster peace and reconciliation."

"No President of the United States has done more for peace in Northern Ireland than you."

—Tony Blair

Clinton's sober and, at times, tearful mood began to lift and approach the ebullient mode when he began shaking hands along a rope line in Omagh. The crowds, laughing and smiling, chanted, "We want Bill! We want Bill!" By the time he spoke in the ancient cathedral town of Armagh, the President was nearly back to his familiar, self-confident form.

"Never underestimate the impact you can have on the world," Clinton said. "Thank you for the springtime of hope you have given the world. Thank you for reminding us of one of life's most important lessons—that it is never too late for a new beginning." With American help, Northern Ireland has begun again. No doubt Clinton would like to have that chance. —With reporting by Jay Brangan and Clinton and CMI Stammeman/Armagh

Main Street Monsters

A worldwide crackdown reveals that child pornographers might just be the people next door

By ELAINE SHANNON

THE WONDERLAND CLUB TOOK ITS NAME from Lewis Carroll and its alleged clientele from Main Street, U.S.A.—including an engineer from Portland, Maine, a scientist in New Britain, Conn. Other suspected members lived in sleepy towns like Broken Arrow, Okla.; Lawrence, Kans.; and Kennebunk, Maine. And just as the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* had a scandalous predilection for photographing half-clad little girls, these seemingly solid citizens—and as many as 200 other men (and a few women) who belonged to Wonderland—shared an unspeakable secret: the codes to a dark channel in cyberspace. After a raid coordinated with 13 other countries last week, law-enforcement officials charged that Wonderland and its Wondernet operated the largest, most sophisticated ring of child pornographers yet found. "This is a dangerous, dangerous crowd," says Glenn Nick of the U.S. Customs Cyber-Smuggling Center in Sterling, Va. "They're dangerous because they can be in any neighborhood."

"One of the requirements for membership is a stockpile of thousands of images of graphic child pornography," said U.S. Customs commissioner Raymond Kelly last week as he announced that Operation Cheshire Cat—the feds' counter-allusion from Carroll—had resulted in the arrest of five men and the seizure of dozens of computers believed to contain more than 500,000 images of children. Authorities in Europe and Australia locked up 49 people and planned dozens more arrests. Out of the personal stockpiles, Kelly explained, members traded "in the most vile pornography imaginable over the Internet. The images depict everything from sexual abuse to the actual rape of children"—some as young as 18 months.

Some club members in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia, says agent Nick, owned production facilities and transmit-

ted live child-sex shows over the Web. Club members directed the sex acts by sending instructions to the producers via Wondernet chat rooms. "They had standards," Nick says grimly. "The only thing they banned was snuff pictures, the actual killing of somebody." According to Nick, a couple of members were barred because they trafficked in those pictures.

The case grew out of a 1996 Customs bust of a San Jose, Calif., child-pornography ring called the Orchid Club. A pedophile

dresses of 34 U.S.-based club members.

The raids had dramatic moments. A suspect living in a trailer park in St. Charles, Mo., was arrested after agents found, along with child porn, firearms and a stash of the black powder used to make bombs. According to Customs agents, a law student in New York City threw his hard drive into a neighbor's yard (it was later discovered by a police dog). Federal sources say an alleged club member in Allen, Texas, committed suicide last week after being served with a search warrant.

But other suspects have quickly admitted their involvement and provided their pass codes, screen names and cyberlinks to investigators. With those keys and decrypted data from seized computers, agents expect to make dozens more arrests. So far, the evidence suggests that Wonderland reached into 47 countries. The police services of



WHO'S WATCHING THE CHILDREN? As part of a massive raid, law-enforcement confiscated the computer and video equipment, left, from a trailer in St. Charles, Mo., top, arresting Scott Altemeyer, right

who began cooperating with agents identified an online purveyor of child porn in England. The information was passed to British investigators, who arrested four child exploiters and molesters. In May, London tipped U.S. Customs to the existence of the Wonderland Club. U.S. agents tried surfing into Wondernet but failed to gain entry. They discovered that after the Orchid Club busts, Wonderland, whose members include computer programmers and hardware specialists, deployed an imposing system of codes and encryption. "They took full advantage of all the technological capabilities of the Internet," Nick says. "We couldn't get in without tipping our hand." But they could lurk, like Carroll's elusive Cheshire Cat, in the cybershadows outside the Wondernet, watching transactions until they penetrated the veil of screen names and obtained the real names and ad-

those nations are being invited to join the next round of raids. At the same time, officials are looking for the ring's young victims. Customs has set up a 24-hour child-porn hot line, 800-BE-ALERT.

No one is claiming to be able to purge the Net completely of evil. As a result of the crackdown, says agent Nick, "I'm sure there are a lot of hard drives being reformatted throughout the world." But, he says, "we certainly disrupted a network, and with any luck, we'll be able to pick off a few of them." His warning to parents: "You can't just put a computer in your kids' bedroom, hook it up to the Internet and expect them not to run into trouble. That's like dropping your kids off at the playground at 7 a.m. and not coming back till 7 p.m. Anything can happen to them." As Operation Cheshire Cat shows, there are monsters hiding in plain sight, right in the middle of Main Street. ■

LOST IN THE MIDDLE

While America's schools focus on the needs of high achievers and the learning disabled, average students are falling through the cracks

By ROMESH RATNESAR DES MOINES

LIKE MOST 13-YEAR-OLDS, BRIAN Wennerstrum loves video games and his mom—and isn't all that crazy about school. An eighth-grader at Callanan Middle School in Des Moines, Iowa, he is quiet and well-mannered, a little unfocused at times, and popular with classmates and teachers. He diligently attempts all the work assigned to him in class, doesn't raise his hand much and almost never speaks up unless he's called upon. Brian's favorite subject? Without hesitation: it's "P.E."

Brian's mother Mary describes her son as "just your average, basic kid." And these days, that means he's just the kind of student who can be overlooked. As a fourth-grader, Brian was placed in a cramped class of 34 students; midway through the school year, the teacher left, and a succession of substitutes took over. By the time Brian started fifth grade, his reading skills were a full year below grade level. "Basically," his mother says, "he got ignored for an entire year."

With the help of a teacher who tutored him after school, Brian has made up most of the lost ground, but he still struggles in reading and admits it's his most dreaded subject. And while he's not qualified for more advanced, enriching work, he does not score poorly enough to re-

ceive the special assistance provided kids with learning disabilities. "If I could give him a label, I know there would be all sorts of extra help for him," sighs Mary. Brian is mired in the middle, and even his teachers admit that's a bad place to be. "The high end and the low end of the class can take up all your energies," says Lori Milligan, his seventh-grade science teacher. Casting an eye toward Brian, she adds, "Then there are the rest—the quiet kids who aren't disruptive, who don't need your undivided attention. Where do they fit in?"

The answer, more often than not, is nowhere. Across the U.S., average students like Brian Wennerstrum—a group researchers call "woodwork children" because of their tendency to fade into the classroom background—are suffering from an unofficial policy of neglect as public schools overlook students in the middle in favor of the bright stars or the learning disabled. The share of public-school budgets devoted to "regular education"—which almost two-thirds of students receive—plummeted from 80% in 1967 to less than 59% in 1996, according to the Economic Policy Institute. The trend has accelerated in the past decade. From 1991 to 1996, regular ed accounted for just 23% of total spending on new school programs. Average students have become casualties of a spoils system in which every morsel of



every school district's budget has a different interest group staking a claim to it. "If you don't have someone representing you, your needs get lost," says William Purkey, an education professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "The average child slips through the cracks. There's no strong voice on their behalf."

That may soon change. This fall a report on the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS), commissioned by the National Science Foundation, will present a litany of unsettling findings on the quality of American public schooling compared with that of the rest of the world. One conclusion: the deficiency of America's average students is a major reason for the woeful U.S. performance in the TIMSS exams. Too many schools, the report says, "have sacrificed the attainments of more average students in an attempt to bolster the performance of better students." As a result, American eighth- and 12th-graders



The share of public-school budgets devoted to "regular education" plummeted from **80%** in 1967 to **58.6%** in 1996



on the whole lag below the international average in math and are not even within earshot of top countries like Japan, South Korea and Singapore. "The other nations of the world don't subdivide children on the basis of content. The content is the same for ordinary, average students and for the very best ones," says Michigan State professor William Schmidt, the study's national research coordinator. "That's what makes all the difference."

What makes this trend even more troubling is its departure from the historic mission of U.S. public schools. Americans have always regarded education as a critical cog in the machinery of democracy. But they have also prided themselves on constructing "common" institutions that, unlike European schools, geared lessons to the middle and did not select elites early. Educators stressed that a program suitable for the best students was also good enough for the average ones. By catering to average

students and preparing them for stable jobs, America's public schools would help build an educated, prosperous middle class.

But today that ideal of common public education is being subverted from within, as principals like Dinzle Adams, who heads Halls High School in Knoxville, Tenn., can attest. "We do a heck of a job with our high achievers and a good job with special-needs students," he says, "and it's almost like reverse discrimination against the average kid."

How did average students get handed this raw deal? Part of the answer lies in special education, which was established in the mid-'70s to cover physically disabled students and children with severe mental handicaps. And over the past 20 years, the ranks of another group covered by the law—students classified as learning disabled—have ballooned. In 1975 there were 800,000 public-school students (1.8% of

NEGLECTED Diligent but all too normal, kids like Wennorstrum often struggle alone

the total) classified as learning disabled; today that number is 2.6 million, or 4.3%. It costs \$9 billion a year to educate learning-disabled kids.

Much has been made of the abuse of the learning-disability law by middle-class parents desperate to get help for their under-achieving children, but the real problems are more subtle. The rising numbers of learning-disabled (or "special needs") students have altered classroom dynamics in ways that harm average kids' ability to learn. The old practice of sticking special-ed kids in separate classes for the duration of the school day has given way to the policy of "mainstreaming," or "inclusion"—nearly half of all special-needs students—and many more than that in suburban districts—spend most of the day in regular classes with nondisabled students. Though schools often assign a teacher's aide to oversee learning-disabled pupils, teachers in regular classrooms now have to handle those students—many of whom have serious behavior problems as well—while keeping everyone else on track.

Average students pay the price. At Halls Middle School in Knoxville, half the students in Gay Clapp's sixth-grade science class last year were classified as having "special needs." One day last spring, after giving her class a plant diagram to color, Clapp watched as a group of boys got up to hang out at the pencil sharpener, and other students wandered the room for supplies; for a few moments, all order broke down. "It's overwhelming," says Clapp, who has taught for 39 years. "Dealing with this many kids and this many different needs wears you out. And by a long shot, the average student loses out." In Buffalo, N.Y., seventh-grade teacher Rebecca Heim confronts similar frustrations. Eight of her 24 students last year had special needs. "They end up holding back the class because of the constant disruption to the classroom," Heim says. "That's a disservice to the regular-ed students."

Those students receive a double blow from learning-disabilities laws: not only is their learning in mixed classrooms often compromised, but they are also barred from reaping the benefits—small-group instruction, protection from discipline, extra time on standardized tests—afforded the learning-disabled students. That frustrates

Twenty years ago, 800,000 students were called learning disabled; today 2.6 million students are, costing \$9 billion a year

CLASS
MAKE UP

RISING NUMBERS of learning-disabled students have altered classroom dynamics, harming average kids' ability to learn

principals like Mary Gordon of Windsor Elementary School in Des Moines. There, learning-disabled first-graders who have trouble with reading get pulled out for periods of the day to attend a small-group session with a tutor; meanwhile, the sizes of the two regular classes swell as high as 28 or 29. "Why not make it legal to use the special-education funds to help pay for a third class," she sensibly asks, "and have three classes of 17?"

Even as they bear the brunt of laws tailored to help more troublesome classmates, woodwork children get ripped off by practices designed to enrich their more studious peers. In most public middle and high schools, high-achieving students spend at least part of their day in accelerated classes filled with other high achievers, where teachers rarely have to tend to slow learners or misbehaving problem children. Although most schools have abandoned the older, cruder forms of "tracking" students—which separated children early in their school careers on the basis of test scores, resulting in segregation within racially integrated schools—a majority still "group" kids according to ability in particular subjects. Ability grouping has become a national assumption: more than 80% of American middle and high schools have at least two different levels of math classes for each grade.

To parents of high performers, it seems like a reasonable enough way to keep their kids challenged. "What do you do with the very high-ability student who's sitting in your classroom, who's ready to move on?" asks Peter Rosenstein, executive director of the National Association of Gifted Children. "The intuitive part of this is that you have to use ability grouping." And, claims Buffalo board of education head Marlies Weslowski, "a pittance is spent on gifted children." But mon-

INCLUSION At Montclair High in New Jersey, ninth-graders of all abilities study Shakespeare side by side



DISTRACTION In this Buffalo classroom, "special needs" students tend to divert attention from average kids

Wennerstrum who remain behind, it represents a big part of the problem. "When you pull the best and brightest out for half a day, that leaves the average kids in the building," says Mary Wennerstrum. "Who are those kids supposed to emulate?"

Many researchers argue that the supposed advantages of ability grouping do not pan out in practice. Robert Slavin, an educational researcher at Johns Hopkins University,

has found that high and middle achievers do just as well in "heterogeneous" classrooms as they do in classes populated by kids just like them. And low achievers do better. Says Slavin: "My argument is, Why would you continue grouping students if it doesn't seem to benefit anybody?" One answer: parents of motivated students tend to be pretty motivated and skilled at persuading school boards to sustain classes that provide something special for their children. In an era in which gaining admission to top-shelf high schools and colleges has become a blood sport, self-interest trumps community building most of the time. In Montclair, N.J., lawsuits brought by African-American parents in the late 1980s forced Montclair High School to detrack one course—ninth-grade literature—so that students of all abilities and test scores

would sit next to each other and read the same books. School officials say students who previously went unnoticed are flourishing. "Kids have started to find they have a voice in the room," says teacher Dana Sherman. "When you start giving kids a voice, achievement is one of the outcomes." Still, after five years, the program hasn't spread to any other classes in the district. "You know who the parents are who are upset," says Sherman. "It's the parents of the kids who have traditionally been in the high-honors classes. They don't buy it. They think it's a touchy-feely course."

Wennerstrum who remain behind, it represents a big part of the problem. "When you pull the best and brightest out for half a day, that leaves the average kids in the building," says Mary Wennerstrum. "Who are those kids supposed to emulate?"

Many researchers argue that the supposed advantages of ability grouping do not pan out in practice. Robert Slavin, an educational researcher at Johns Hopkins University,



HIGH- AND MIDDLE-ACHIEVING students do as well in mixed classrooms as they do in classes with only kids like them

BUILDING PLANS



For many around the world, like the Ramirez-Rodriguez family of Freeport, Texas, a home built by Habitat for Humanity volunteers is an answer to their prayers. That's why, for over a decade, Dow employees have worked with Habitat, sharing their time, skills and products, like Styrofoam® brand insulation, with families in need. So, from Houston to Hungary, we're not only building homes. We're building something even stronger.

What Good Thinking Can Do.



Given the hypercompetitive climate in middle-class schools, it seems unlikely those parents will ever be converted. But average students can still be rescued if policymakers committed to the ideals of public education resist interest-group politics and pressure from powerful parents. Re-vamping special-education laws, to give school districts more flexibility in distributing resources, would give a boost to

woodwork kids. So would offering incentives for schools to minimize ability grouping or bonuses for schools that put top-notch teachers—who generally instruct gifted children—in middle-achieving classrooms. Michigan State's Schmidt says the predicament of America's average students illustrates the need for a set of "national standards that would articulate what all of our kids need to know." But the first step

may be even simpler—as simple as challenging average kids as much as we do the brightest students. Just ask Meghan Malone, a high-achieving, freckle-faced Des Moines ninth-grader. "When you expect all kids to be smart," she says, walking out of her honors English class, "they will be." It may not be that easy, but it would be a start.

—With reporting by Sally B. Donnelly/
Knoxville and Aisha Labi/Buffalo

Side by Side in Santa Paula: One School's Success

MATH TEACHER ZBIGNIEW ZIELINA WAS PUZZLED by the silence. It was early in the school year, he was about to begin his algebra class, and the Santa Paula High School instructor detected none of the loud talk and scraping chairs that usually marked his students' entrance. He turned to investigate. "I see 30 kids quietly copying the questions," he recalls. "They were ready to work. In all my years, I have never seen this."

Until last September, no one in Santa Paula, Calif., had. That's when the tiny (pop. 27,000) farm community, about 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles, decided to integrate its college-prep and "general" education students so that slow, average and accelerated learners would sit side by side. It is a bold experiment. Segregating students by ability—a vintage classroom organizational tool known as "tracking" or "ability grouping"—is practiced in at least 80% of U.S. high schools, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. But in Santa Paula, anger at the grouping system had smoldered for decades. "This is a small town that's been run the same way forever," says special-programs teacher Lisa Salas, who went through school on the "standard" track and says she struggled unprepared through college. Her father Robert, a retired investigator for the local district attorney's office, was so angry about his own low-ball education that he ran for and won a seat on the school board. During the campaign, he found that most townpeople agreed that Santa Paula's schools provided a quality education for its few high achievers but substandard schooling for the majority of students.

In 1996 the district hired superintendent William Brand, who had helped eliminate tracking in Escondido, Calif. Brand immediately set out to do the same at Santa Paula High School. But he faced resistance. Virtually the entire English department opposed the change, claiming that mixing high-achievers with average students would force the curriculum to be "dumbed down." Calls from angry or worried parents flooded Brand's office. "They thought the world was ending," he recalls.

After months of debate and a raucous school-board

meeting, supporters of detracking, like science teacher Ray Sepulveda, won out. On his own, Sepulveda had detracked his classes a decade earlier, eliminating prerequisites so that any student who wanted to take college-prep or honors courses could do so simply by signing up. "I think everybody should be exposed to the good stuff," he says. To ease the transition to the new, detracked environment, principal Antonio Gaitan organized after-school tutoring and Saturday enrichment classes for 700 former standard-track kids. "It's vital to build in curriculum support," Gaitan explains. "You don't just throw kids into the deep water."

Have they learned to swim? The early results, at least, are promising. Doomsayers predicted that at least half the student body would flunk out in the new system, but by the end of last year 80% had a GPA of 2.0 or better; 47.5% had a 3.0 or higher. The school's average combined SAT score rose from 869 to 953. "It's been good for some people," says junior Chris Garmon. "You get challenged."

Still, not everybody is pleased. "The English department is struggling," says chairman Steve Halverson. In 11th-grade classes, readers with 10th-grade skills study alongside students with college-level ability. Says Halverson: "You're constantly asking, Where do I aim?" And Morgan Montoya, a high-achieving student, gripes that former standard-track classmates "ask you to explain stuff to them. It takes longer." But the science department's Sepulveda sees alchemy in that: "Honor students are learning the most critical skill of all: leadership."

Brand admits that the new, heterogeneous classroom climate has forced teachers to work harder. "You can't just lecture now," he explains. "You have to communicate." If nothing else, the overhaul has brought an element of excitement and experimentation into Santa Paula High's classrooms. By the end of the school year, math teacher Zielina found an enthusiasm for learning in his mixed-ability classes that he once spotted only among honor students. Says Zielina, smiling: "The world is changed."

—By James
Willworth/Santa Paula



DETRACKING Steve Lopez's science class is open to all



why?

because



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Lost and Found in Orbit

Inspired detective work and giant radiotelescopes track down a solar satellite that really shined

By LEON JAROFF

IT'S A MILLION MILES AWAY, COST \$1 BILLION, and for more than two years has surveyed the sun with spectacular results. This cosmic overachiever—about the size of a Volkswagen beetle—is the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, otherwise known as SOHO. Since April 1996 it has beamed back hundreds of thousands of remarkable images of solar eruptions and made dozens of scientific discoveries.

It has also enhanced the ability of astronomers to predict and spot the powerful solar storms that produce auroras and cause power disruptions on Earth—as well as endanger satellites and astronauts in space.

Then, in late June, SOHO inexplicably fell silent, seemingly lost in space. "It was devastating," says John Credland, science project chief at the European Space Agency (ESA). "It was a show stopper."

Now it looks as if the show may go on. With a clever bit of detective work, technical ingenuity and the aid of giant radio telescopes, scientists at ESA and NASA (co-sponsors of SOHO) have located the wayward spacecraft and started nursing it back to health; they hope to regain control of it this week. If all goes well, SOHO could be fully back in business this fall in plenty of time to monitor the sun as it approaches the peak of its 11-year cycle of activity, around 2001.

Earlier there seemed little hope of saving SOHO after the spacecraft stopped responding to controllers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. At the time SOHO scientist Arthur Poland lamented, "There is a real fear we won't get it back."

The failure occurred during an unusually complex maintenance procedure and was caused by a combination of two computer-software glitches and a bad judgment call. Those glitches resulted in the shutdown of one essential SOHO attitude-sensing gyroscope, a failure by a computer to recognize that the gyroscope was not operating, the unnecessary firing of SOHO's hydrazine-powered thrusters, and a mistake by controllers in switching off a gyroscope that was working properly. "Thrusters kept firing to null out a roll that was not happen-

ing," explains NASA's Michael Greenfield, co-chair of the investigation group.

Indeed, the thrusters actually caused SOHO to begin spinning with its two solar panels nearly edge-on to the sun rather than facing it. Without solar energy, SOHO's batteries quickly drained, cutting off power to all its systems.

Again and again, controllers vainly sent signals to where they thought SOHO should be. Weeks went by without a response.

wobbling at top and bottom and rotating once a minute, too slow to have caused structural damage. Even more encouraging, the geometry of SOHO's orbit was tilting the craft's axis of rotation toward the sun by about a degree a day. That was gradually increasing the amount of sunlight hitting the solar panels. Ground controllers ordered SOHO to store that intermittent flow of energy and recharge its batteries.

Why hadn't the spacecraft responded to controllers' signals before? Perhaps, suggested an ESA scientist, the probing signals were too complex for the weakened SOHO to comprehend. Early in August controllers sent a much simpler message. Result: contact! SOHO responded by transmitting its carrier signal. It was still alive and, as its batteries gradually charged, able to transmit a modicum of data.



SOHO'S MOST AMAZING FINDS

- Rivers of plasma
- A magnetic "carpet"
- Flare-induced sunquakes
- Coronal mass ejections
- 51 sungrazing comets

Snapshot of the sun's corona

Then, in mid-July, a University of Colorado physicist named Alan Kiplinger had an idea. Why not search for SOHO the same way flight controllers look for commercial airliners: with radar? Realizing that extremely powerful radar would be needed to bounce a signal off so distant a target, he called on Donald Campbell, the chief scientist at the world's largest radiotelescope, the 1,000-ft. dish at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Campbell agreed to try, although he estimated that the power of the returned signal would be about a billionth of a watt.

On July 23, Arecibo directed a powerful high-frequency radio beam toward the site SOHO should have been, a million miles away orbiting the sun. Ten seconds later, NASA's 230-ft. radiotelescope at Goldstone, Calif., began picking up its faint radar profile, barely perceptible against the background noise of space.

SOHO was still close to its proper orbit,

As the faces of SOHO's solar panels tilt more and more toward the sun, controllers are alternately charging the batteries and using them to warm SOHO's slushy on-board hydrazine fuel, which nearly froze during the craft's dormancy. The hydrazine, when fully thawed, will be used to fire thrusters in a series of brief burns. That procedure should halt SOHO's spin, stabilize the observatory and face its solar panels directly toward the sun.

Only then will the SOHO team begin a two-month period of restarting and evaluating the spacecraft's systems and scientific packages in preparation for full operation in the fall. "So far we've found no damage whatsoever," says ESA's Credland. "It's incredible." Considering the odds that were stacked against the little spacecraft, incredible is probably an understatement. —Reported by Dick Thompson/Washington

A close-up portrait of a man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious, intense expression. The background is blurred, showing warm, golden light, possibly from a window or a lamp. The overall mood is dramatic and sophisticated.

**AUTUMN
ASCENDANT**

O.K., so this summer wasn't all that inspiring, culturally speaking. But fall is on the way with an onslaught of what promises to be more uplifting endeavors. Herewith a selective guide to some of the events that we're most looking forward to

BECK Mutations

Why: An avalanche of big albums is coming this season. Courtney Love and her band Hole have a smart, shimmery new CD, *Celebrity Skin*, out this week. Neosoulman Seal's *Human Being* is due Nov. 17. Shock rocker Marilyn Manson goes from gloom to glam on Sept. 15; while R. and B. auteur D'Angelo will try to save soul's soul with *Voodoo* in November. Rappers RZA (of the Wu-Tang Clan) and Ice Cube also have solo releases due in November. And then there's Beck. R. and B., rap, rock, it's all in there. Beck has an old-soul voice, a sweetly naive look in his eye and a reckless simplicity in his heart—as he said on *Where It's At*, all he needs is "two turntables and a microphone." Yeah, maybe he could be the voice of his generation. His line, "I'm a loser baby so why don't you kill me?" could be nihilistic ad copy for the '90s. But there's a victory in elusiveness. Beck is nobody's symbol, nobody's icon. He sings, "Temperature's dropping at the rotten oasis/ Stealing kisses from the leprous faces" and dares you to understand. Bluesman, hip-hopper, folkie, punk rocker, poet. If Beck is a loser, we don't ever want to win. **When:** in stores Nov. 3.

Joni Mitchell Returns! And Other Great News

Ah, the joy of discovery—of finding that new rocker, that voice you've never heard, or of rediscovering an old favorite, back and in fine form ...



Welcome ...

Somewhere between Sade and Portishead, there's **Morley**, left. Her fine *Sun Machine* is just out. And watch for **Nicole Renée**; her self-titled CD, due Sept. 15, has some of the fire and funk of early Prince.

Welcome Back ...

Two very different reasons to love Canada: **Joni Mitchell**, left, and **Alanis Morissette**. Mitchell's cool *Taming the Tiger* arrives Sept. 29. Morissette's *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* is due Nov. 3.

TOM WOLFE

A Man in Full

Why: It's been 11 years since *The Bonfire of the Vanities* enthralled a considerable swatch of the reading public. Here was a novel that actually portrayed something broader than the private angst of a sensitive hero or heroine. Wolfe the journalist (*The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test*, *The Right Stuff*) ladled into his first work of fiction huge portions of contemporary realities: Wall Street shenanigans during the booming '80s, the wretched excesses of the newly rich, racial turmoil, corrupt politicians, a criminal-justice system in free fall. Ever since, the question has been, can Wolfe the novelist do it again? The answer is imminent. *A Man in Full* is set chiefly in Atlanta and features an aging real estate developer more than a billion dollars in debt and a potentially explosive rape accusation against a black Georgia Tech running back. Get ready for a wild read. **When:** Publication date is Nov. 12. Books may be in stores a few days earlier.

Thoroughly Examined Lives

At least as far back as the days of Plutarch, stories about real people, usually notable if not always virtuous, have attracted an avid readership. Nothing has changed. This fall will see big biographies of:



Muhammad Ali In *King of the World*, David Remnick, new editor of the *New Yorker*, assesses the life of the Greatest, particularly his astonishing emergence and self-re-creation during the tumultuous '60s.

Charles Lindbergh Award-winning biographer A. Scott Berg (*Max Perkins*, *Goldwyn*) was granted total access to the aviator's vast archives.

Berg's *Lindbergh* portrays the private man behind the public legend.

Rudolf Nureyev The Russian dancer's 1961 defection from the U.S.S.R. to the U.S. made headlines. In *Nureyev*, author Diane Solway looks at his glittering career onstage and his fascinating life behind the scenes.

Anne Frank What is there to know about her that she didn't tell us in her famous *Diary*? A good deal, according to journalist Melissa Müller, whose *Anne Frank* fills in, through interviews and research, the young diarist's world.

Ronald Reagan Edmund Mors (*The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*) has spent 13 years on Dutch, his account of another Republican President.



IAN
MCKELLEN

Apt Pupil; Gods and Monsters

Why: To the ordinary moviegoer, *Richard II* and *Richard III* might be obscure sequels to Oliver Stone's Nixon biopic. But theater lovers know them as showcases for definitive roles—the stunted man of thought, the malefic man of action—played by Ian McKellen, the prime Shakespearean actor of our time. Now, with leading roles in two ambitious thrillers, Sir Ian, 59, must face the inconvenience of movie stardom. In *Gods and Monsters*, he is James Whale, the director of *Frankenstein*, who in his last days seeks a young man to ease his roiling soul. In the Stephen King tale *Apt Pupil*, he plays an aged Nazi, living incognito in California, who is forced into an uneasy alliance with a curious teenager. McKellen is the soul of pained grace in one film, the spirit of caged evil in the other, but both reveal an actor totally at ease with the camera's stare. Forget, for a second, the march of teen thespians from the WB to the big screen. Ian McKellen is a star of the future. **When:** *Gods and Monsters* at the New York Film Festival, then in theaters Nov. 4; *Apt Pupil*, Oct. 9.



My Mother the Slave, My Brother the Skinhead

How did Tolstoy put it? All happy families are on TV; all unhappy families are in movies. In autumn movies, anyway. Here's a six-pack of senos films that bend the laws of relativity.



Beloved Jonathan Demme directs Toni Morrison's story of a former slave (Oprah Winfrey) and her brooding brood.



One True Thing Renée Zellweger tends ailing mom Meryl Streep in a merciful drama from Carl Franklin.



American History X Two brothers (Edward Furlong, Edward Norton) flirt with neo-Nazism. Tony Kaye directs.



A Simple Plan A wad of hot money tests the brotherly love of Billy Bob Thornton and Bill Paxton. Director: Sam Raimi.



A Soldier's Daughter An eccentric American family in Paris: Kris Kristofferson stars for director James Ivory.



Life Is Beautiful Roberto Benigni's prize-winning tragic-comedy of an Italian Jew and his son in a Nazi death camp.



KERI RUSSELL

Felicity

Why: If a woman is going to be a movie star, it's often said, the camera must love her. On television that's not the case. The little, pallid screen doesn't require that luminous quality and usually doesn't display it to very good advantage. This is one reason why the arrival of Keri Russell on TV is so remarkable. Playing a college freshman in a new drama on the WB, Russell has an unusual lightness and naturalness. Of course, she is very pretty, and she is a fine actor as well, but these attributes count for only so much. What Russell also has is grace, a touch of bliss that falls from the heavens, and that gives her a savory presence rarely seen in this mundane medium. As for the show itself, it is far more likable than its demographic neighbors, *Dawson's Creek* (teens) and *Ally McBeal* (twentysomethings). The danger is that expectations for it have risen too high, making it the most eagerly anticipated new series of the season. But Russell herself is mostly the reason for this, thus viewers are unlikely to be disappointed. **When:** Debuts Sept. 29 at 9 p.m. E.T.

And as the Broadcast Networks Sink Slowly in the West ...

Each fall brings tremendous excitement and anticipation about the networks' new shows. Except this fall. Not even network

executives can muster enthusiasm over a generally weak season that threatens to accelerate the erosion to cable.



ABC

After a miserable showing last year, ABC has nowhere to go but up. **The Hughleys**, which Chris Rock is producing, is one of its stronger new sitcoms.



NBC

Seinfeld is gone, *E.R.*'s price has soared, and NBC just hopes to hold its ground. **Trinity**, a drama set in Hell's Kitchen, is its least formulaic new entry.



CBS

Desperate to attract young men, CBS paid dearly to bring back the **NFL**. It has also scheduled atypically macho shows like *Buddy Faro* and *Martial Law*.



Fox

Trying to find a sitcom to match its tremendous successes with dramas and animation, Fox brings us **Costello**. It's going to have to keep looking.



UPN

A show about Abraham Lincoln's butler? That's **The Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer**. UPN seeks a broader audience, but this is an odd way to attract it.



The WB

Aside from *Felicity* there's **Charmed**, a surprisingly fun drama with Sherry Doherty as a witch. Watch too for the little noticed but intelligent *Hyperion Bay*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY MAYER FOR TIME; STYLING: JANE ROSS; HAIR: JANE ROSS; MAKEUP: JANE ROSS; GROOMING: JANE ROSS; PROP STYLING: JANE ROSS; SET DESIGNER: JANE ROSS; COSTUME DESIGNER: JANE ROSS; EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JANE ROSS; PRODUCED BY JANE ROSS; WRITTEN BY JANE ROSS; DIRECTED BY JANE ROSS

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ENGINEERED TO BE GREAT CARS



JACKSON POLLOCK

A Retrospective

Why: Pollock is the totemic figure of modern American art. After his death in a car crash at 44, in 1956, he became famous in a way that no American artist had been before (or has been since)—a sacrificial hero to some, an overblown dauber to others. His influence lies like traces of DNA through 40 years of subsequent painting. With this show—the first Pollock retrospective since 1982, in Paris—curator Kirk Varnedoe is bound to unsettle some settled views. “Jack the Dripper,” as the press christened the artist (in his studio, left, with wife and fellow artist Lee Krasner), is unlikely to keep looking like an apostle of pure abstraction. More likely we will see him as, among other things, the last heir to a tradition of epic American landscape that stretches back to the early 19th century. **When:** Opens Oct. 28 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



The People's Choice

Vermeer was a blockbuster at Washington's National Gallery in 1996. But for many art lovers, the true Dutch master is Vincent van Gogh. The largest exhibition of his works to appear outside the Netherlands in 25 years opens at the gallery Oct. 4.

Visitors expected: Up to 500,000

Advance reservations: Nearly gone by last week

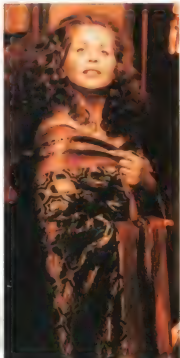
Notable features: Three works never seen in the U.S.

Souvenirs: Everything but his ear

RENEE FLEMING

A Streetcar Named Desire

Why: André Previn has conducted symphony orchestras throughout the world, composed scores for Broadway (*Coco*) and Hollywood (*Bad Day at Black Rock*) and even written a dryly witty autobiography (*No Minor Chords: My Days in Hollywood*). Now he's finally got around to his first opera, a three-hour-long adaptation of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, commissioned by the San Francisco Opera. Previn, who turned 69 in April, knows he's leading with his chin—nearly all the great opera composers of the past got started in their 20s or 30s—so he has taken out a classy piece of flop insurance: superstar soprano Renée Fleming is singing the role of Blanche Dubois. “Of course it's inhibiting to make an opera out of so famous a play,” he says, “but even if you don't like what I've written, I think it's safe to say you'll love Renée.” **When:** The premiere is Sept. 19.



Literary Librettos

Tennessee Williams isn't the only writer who will be appearing at the opera this season:

Mourning Becomes Electra

Eugene O'Neill's spin on the Greek myth turns up at the Lyric Opera of Chicago on Oct. 6.

Eric Hermansson's Soul A

story by Nebraska-bred Willa Cather inspires an Opera Omaha production debuting Nov. 11.

Of Mice and Men

George and Lennie sing when New York City Opera's rendition of John Steinbeck's novella opens Nov. 7.

TERRENCE MCNALLY

Corpus Christi

Why: Serious drama has a hard time getting much attention these days, but one sure way, it turns out, is to have some religious conservatives make a stink about it beforehand. McNally's new play concerns a gay Christlike figure who has sex with his apostles. The plot outline alone was enough to draw criticism and even death threats against the author and the Manhattan Theatre Club, which plans to stage the play this fall. Citing security concerns, the theater abruptly canceled the production in May; then, after a barrage of bad publicity and cries

of censorship, reversed itself and said the show would go on after all. Which means McNally (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*; *Master Class*; the book for *Ragtime*) in all likelihood has a hit on his hands. And maybe even, once the political posturing is cleared away, an intriguing new play. **When:** Opens Oct. 13 at the City Center in Manhattan.



Original Musicals

In the wake of *The Lion King* and *Ragtime*, they're enjoying boom times. And not just on Broadway.

The Civil War Composer Frank Wildhorn (*Jekyll & Hyde*) musicalizes the epic struggle in a show making its debut this month in Houston.

Parade Is a 1915 lynching fit material for a musical? Writer Alfred Uhry and director Harold Prince think so. Previews begin in November.

Elaborate Lives: The Legend of Aida Another elaborate gamble is Disney's remake of the opera, with music by Elton John, opening Oct. 7 in Atlanta.

Jolson: The Musical This tribute to the Mammy singer was a hit in London. Mike Burstyn stars in the U.S. tour, beginning next month in Cleveland, Ohio.

Footloose You loved the movie... Oh, you didn't? Well, maybe you'll go for the stage version, which just started a pre-Broadway run in Washington.



GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL

Why: This 1913 Beaux Arts gem is one of America's grandest buildings. But it had fallen into neglect and clutter. Now architects Beyer Blinder Belle have brought back its luster. They reopened walkways, top right, and restored the ethereal ceiling over the main concourse, left. Upscale businesses like Michael Jordan's steak house, bottom, add new sparkle. **When:** Official rededication Oct. 1.





HELMUT LANG

Fall Collection, Spring Show

Why: The designer, whose reputation was built on clothes of spare Germanic coolness splashed with a kinky techno-twist, moved to New York City from Vienna in March. It wasn't long before he had unzipped a few ideas that had the Seventh Avenue establishment agog. First, he showed his entire fall collection in teeny pictures on the Internet, where (the horror!) anyone, not just an elite corps of editors, buyers and fashion insiders, could have a look at them. Now he's moved his spring show, which takes place in the fall, to September rather than waiting (the nerve!) until November after the London, Milan and Paris shows. Calvin Klein immediately joined the rebellion, as did Donna Karan and several others. It's not unusual for Lang to be copied. He's credited with bringing us the stretchy T, rubber dresses and a

whole slew of offbeat new materials. For this fall, tired of being the fabric frontiersman, he worked instead with layering—Can he bring capes back?—and unusual forms. His colors—white, black, camel and a zing of lemon—were like him: plain but hip. **When:** Fall collection in stores now. Spring collection to be shown in New York City on Sept. 17.



Gray for Your Anatomy

Storm clouds, very dead leaves, the rocks one passes on long fall walks: who knows what the inspiration is, but this

season gray is red hot. Almost any gray will do, from a steely blue to a light fog. Just keep it bleak... and chic.



Unplain Janes If you loved spring's strappy shoes, there's no need to go cold turkey for fall. Move on to Mary Janes, like these tweedy Miu Miu showstoppers.

Long and Pleated The folks at Gucci call this magnificent skirt navy, but it looks iron gray to us. Long, but not flowing, it's a uniform for women with real legs.



Funnel Neck Designers are keeping the silhouette soft, so sweaters like DKNY's are big. And loose.



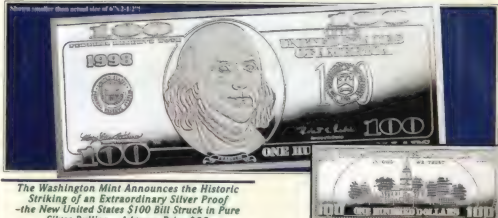
A Splash One great thing about gray is that it makes every other hue pop. It works best with one colorful thing, so if you want the wine Bottega Veneta hat, opt for the charcoal scarf.

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MUSIC

**SPYBOY** *Emmylou Harris*

Anyone who caught her at Lilith Fair this summer knows that Harris has hit a musical sweet spot. *Spyboy*, culled from recent concert tours, looks

back across her quarter-century as an alternative country pioneer and finds

more than nostalgia. Harris and her nimble band revitalize some of her best oldies—*Love Hurts*, *Boulder to Birmingham*—with an assurance that makes them sound fresh. *Spyboy* has the kind of loose, effortless charm that most musicians don't trust anymore. At 51, Harris has tapped into her own well of inspiration, and what's flowing out is something you don't hear much on records: wisdom. —By David E. Thigpen

CINEMA

A MERRY WAR *Directed by Robert Bierman*
Gordon (Richard E. Grant), a copywriter at a London ad agency in the '30s, thinks of himself as a poet. But no one else is



buying. Obsessed with strictures of class (his is "lower upper middle"), he woos his muse while exasperating Rosemary (Helena Bonham Carter), the art director of his ads and the love of his miserable life.

If this version of George Orwell's 1936 novel *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying* is too sunny for its subject, it provides a field day for the lanky Grant. His Gordon is self-absorbed, fulminating—the angry young man 20 years before Jimmy Porter—and utterly charming. —By Richard Corliss

SIMON BIRCH *Written and directed by Mark Steven Johnson*

You don't expect 12-year-olds to be oppressed by ontological issues. You also don't expect them to be arrested in their physical development at about age five. But that's Simon Birch (Ian Michael Smith) for you: mascot, moral and intellectual nudge, best friend to Joe Wentworth (Joseph Mazello), who because of his illegitimate birth



LET'S LET GO: Some women get repelled and grieve at Neiman Marcus; others—inhabitants of Manhattan's literary demimonde—write books intended to embarrass their exes for eternity. In her memoir *Breakup*, Catherine Texier laments getting dumped in tortured detail. (Does his new lover know about his toenail fungus? she wonders.) Anita Liberty's *How to Heal the Hurt by Hating* sticks to skewering her former beau, and, happily, all the comedy is intentional.

is a more conventional kind of outcast in their small New England town. Simon, whose tale was suggested by John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, is convinced that a heroic destiny awaits him. How he attains that improbable yet inspirational end, through a chain of mix-ups, mishaps and coincidences of the kind only a perversely playful God (or a writer of Dickensian boldness) could ordain, makes *Simon Birch* a curiously entrancing, quite unexpected. —By Richard Schickel

BOOKS

MR. WHITE'S CONFESSION *Robert Clark*

Clark writes novels that could be movies in which Henry Fonda and Robert Mitchum steal scenes from each other. His 1997 debut, *In the Deep Midwinter*, established him as a sensitive and forgoing spinner of sepia-colored tales that find the tenderness in men. His new book is more of a morality tale dressed as a murder mystery. Mr. White is a painfully shy salesclerk who photographs showgirls in his room; his alter ego, Wesley Horner, is an anguished



cop with unsolved mysteries of his own. As dime-a-dance girls start showing up dead in St. Paul, Minn., in 1939, the men's paths intersect, and a story of guilt and innocence turns into a pulsing tale of redemption and original goodness, pitting God against the devil. If *Mr. White's Confession* occasionally feels like an old-time movie, at least it's the kind of decent Capraesque affair that used to fill the seats at the Majestic. —By Pico Iyer

THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN

Simon Winchester Lexicography is not always—or only—harmless drudgery. The professor of his title was the renowned autodidact James Murray, who in 1878 began editing what was to become the towering, literally definitive *Oxford English Dictionary*. The madman was William Minor, an American surgeon and Civil War veteran living in England. A volunteer contributor,

Minor provided Murray with more than 10,000 meticulously wrought citations culled from his vast library. He was also a sexually repressed paranoid schizophrenic and murderer who at 38 had been confined for life to a lunatic asylum. At 68, Minor, consumed with self-disgust, amputated his penis. He died in 1920 at 85, deranged to the end, yet a true if not altogether harmless drudge. —By Jesse Birnbaum

THEATER

COMMUNICATING DOORS *Alan Ayckbourn*

Poor Ayckbourn. The British playwright has turned out a string of increasingly dark, provocative comedies. Yet the few U.S. productions of his work tend to reinforce his outdated reputation as the British Neil Simon. Yes, *Communicating Doors*, now on display in a sprightly off-Broadway staging, is a relatively playful piece. A hooker (Mary-Louise Parker) gets called in to service an old geezer, who promptly confesses that he had his first two wives killed. She flees into a closet, doors spin, and we are transported to the same room 20 years earlier—then 20 years before that. The time-travel gimmick is fun but hardly frivolous: the play explores matters of fate and free will, and the ability of people to control their own destiny. A clever and finally quite moving work. —By Richard Zoglin



REBECCA VOGL



QA Bobcat Goldthwait

Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is host of *Bobcat's Big Ass Show* on the FX channel.

Q: You're so funny, and that movie you made about the drunken clown was great. How come *Bobcat's Big Ass Show* sucks?

A: I'm kind of just a hired gun.

Q: So the show wasn't your idea?

A: Hell, no.

Q: After you literally burned Jay Leno's chair on air, you had to do public service announcements. Did you learn something, or are you going to do it again?

A: I don't think I'm that angry anymore.

Q: Because of the *Big Ass Show*?

A: Yeah, that's happiness.

Q: You're also on this *Married with Children* knockoff show on UPN as the voice of a bunny named Mr. Floppy.

A: All right, all right. Let me correct you. It's the WB. I'd never be on the UPN.

Q: Is this your first time being called Mr. Floppy?

A: On a national level. And it's not a knockoff. It's by the same guy. It's like Colonel Sanders opening a new chicken restaurant.

Q: You do tons of voice work now. Does that make you less confident about your physical appearance?

A: Yeah, I've lost 50 lbs. But people would rather see the chubby, jolly Bobcat.

Q: Who'd be worst to sit next to on a plane: Gilbert Gottfried, Pauly Shore or you?

A: Pauly. Pauly's different. Both Gilbert and I just punch the clock.

Q: Yeah, your voice is normal in real life. What's next, after the *Big Ass Show*?

A: Probably supermarket openings.

Q: Until *Police Academy 10*, right?

A: I kind of got tossed off that series for my bad attitude.

Q: O.K., I think that's all I need.

A: So do I get like a phone in the shape of a football or anything?

Q: Like you're the first person to ask me that since I started working at TIME.

—By Joel Stein

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Daniel Kadlec

Big Bet Investing

This is the right kind of market for concentrated stock funds—but only a few beat the averages

STUDY AFTER STUDY SHOWS THAT INVESTORS GET all the diversification they need by owning as few as 10 stocks spread among several industries. Why,

then, does the average stock mutual fund hold 134 companies? It's as confounding as the frenetic trading that goes on in many funds—even though the very fund managers triggering the trades preach patience to their investors. Lay the blame on pressure for short-term results, if you like. But these paradoxes seem idiotic to me and probably help explain

why most funds fail to keep pace with the market. They don't practice selectivity and patience.

For that, many funds have paid a price. Weary of laggard returns, investors have been shifting billions of dollars to passive funds like the Vanguard Index 500, where they are assured of getting market-matching results (and lower fees). Now active managers are striking back, brandishing what I'll call the "big-bet" fund. By limiting the number of stocks in tow and generally holding on longer, these funds correct some of the faults that have driven money to the indexers.

Big-bet funds are nothing new. But they are getting a lot of attention now. A choppy market like the one we've had this summer is where savvy stock pickers are supposed to excel. There are about 150 big-bet funds, reports fund-research firm Morningstar Inc. That's up from about 100 six years ago. The theory is solid. In any large portfolio, the manager is sure to have favorite stocks—often those on which he has done the best research. Why not double up on those and ditch the rest?

For that to work, though, you need a home-run-hitting stock picker—and that creature is as rare as the Mark McGwires of the world. The Sequoia Fund, for example, has beaten both the average stock fund and the S&P 500 for the past one, three and five years. But it does not accept new investors. Some solid big-bet funds that do welcome



Concentrated Funds

Annualized return over five years of the top funds holding 35 or fewer stocks:

Enterprise Growth	21.6%
Papp America	19.0%
Clipper	18.0%
L. Roy Papp Stock	16.2%
New England Growth	15.6%
Average stock fund	12.3%

Source: Morningstar Inc.

periods too, though they stack up O.K. against the lower standard set by the average diversified stock fund.

Meanwhile, index funds—the bane of active managers—continue to dazzle. Their weak spot was supposed to be a down market. But when the market tumbled in August, the index funds held up better than most. Which tells you that if you can hitch your wagon to a star, big-bet funds are worth it. Failing that, though, better just to stick your money in an index fund and let it ride. ■

See time.com/personal for more on big-bet funds. E-mail Dan at kadlec@time.com. See him Tuesday on CNNfn at 12:40 p.m. E.T.

Health Bounty Hunters

SENIOR CITIZENS LOOKING TO PROP up their pension a bit should keep a close eye on their medical bills. That's because, starting Jan. 1, Medicare beneficiaries can collect up to \$1,000 for helping root out instances of the fraud and overbilling that cost the government billions of dollars each year. To blow the whistle on crooked oxygen suppliers or home-health-care providers, just call 800-447-8477.



Fare Treatment for Flyers

EVER WONDER WHETHER YOU REALLY have a chance of snagging that plane ticket with your frequent-flyer miles? Congressman Peter DeFazio (D., Ore.) does, and he'll soon introduce a bill requiring airlines to disclose what the odds on a given route actually are. Under the legislation, carriers would also have to provide all possible fares for a trip, not just the ones for a specific time and day. For now,



double-check your miles expiration date; they probably run out sooner than you think.

Trading in Stock Tips

INVESTORS IN THE MARKET FOR SOME valuable advice during the dog days of the Dow can get it from a new source on the Web. Last week Morgan Stanley became the first major Wall Street house to offer discount online traders (at its discoverbrokerage.com site) same-day access to high-quality research reports on more than 400 companies. For \$19.95 a month, subscribers can receive analyst ratings, earnings estimates and overviews on 20 stocks.

—By Daniel Eisenberg

DISCOVER
brokerage



Joshua Quittner

Bummed Like Me

Can spending time on the Internet really make you lonely and depressed? Who cares?

I AM TOO DEPRESSED TO GET OUT OF BED. DARKLY, I reach down to the pile of debris on the floor and root through empty ice-cream containers, half-empty cigarette cartons and thick Windows 98 self-help books to find what I'm looking for: that new Carnegie Mellon University study suggesting that using the Internet can cause isolation, loneliness and depression. Whatever, I sigh, and roll over for another nap. But later, when I wake up and go online, I can't seem to shake the thing. The researchers purport

to have measured, over the course of two years, the deleterious effects of a mere hour a week of Net use. They reported an average increase of 1% on a depression scale, four-tenths of a percent on a loneliness scale and a loss of 2.7 members of the user's social group. I check into the WELL, one of the oldest and therefore most depressing of the so-called online "communities," and the usual gang is tearing up the report like junkyard dogs with a rag doll.

WELLites, who are among the crankiest people I've ever not met, are especially critical of the methodology, which was limited to 169 newbies living in Pittsburgh. The WELL snobs want to know if maybe there isn't a deeper correlation between living in Pittsburgh and depression. Jeers abound. Some wag posts something he found elsewhere online: a list of the Top 10 Reasons Why the Internet Makes You Depressed. "Reason No. 1: She was 'really' a 14-year-old boy from Sheboygan, Wisconsin!" Ha ha—way to steal someone else's idea and get credit for it. Did I mention that I spend a lot of time online?

I e-mail my wife. "Greater use of the Internet was associated with subsequent declines in family communication," I note, quoting from the study. "Whatever," she replies in an e-mail much, much later.

Not that I care anymore what she thinks. But I am starting to wonder. If an hour a week is too much, what's a safer? Afraid to directly confront Sara Kiesler,



A New Study Found ...

- **More depression** An hour a week online was associated with a 1% rise on a depression scale
- **More loneliness** Four-tenths of 1% to be exact
- **Loss of friends** 2.7 people over two years

of the authors. I re-view her printed remarks on the university's website, where she artfully dodges the question. "Many people do things 'too much,'" she points out. "Eating quarts of ice cream at night, smoking three packs a day and sitting at the computer 10 hours at a time." I wait in vain for her to get to the too-much part. Later I screw up my courage and phone Donna Hoffman, a professor at Vanderbilt University who has conducted more studies of online usage than anyone else I know. "Color me baffled," she says. Hoffman believes the report is critically flawed. For starters, there was no control group—composed of, say, people outside Pittsburgh. Teenagers were the largest group in the sample, and we all know about their mental health. Even the researchers admitted that their results could not be "generalized," meaning you can't extrapolate to the whole population.

By the way, I ask Hoffman, how much are you online? "A lot of the time," she says. "When I am awake." I press her to be more specific. "Easily more than 10 hours a week," she admits, adding quickly that "far from being depressed, I am a happy person." This perks me up. After all, I will leave the house today after all. After one more quart of ice cream. ■

Find the sites mentioned in this column at time.com/personal. Cheer up Josh at jquitt@well.com. Or watch him on *CNN*'s Digital Jam, 7:30 p.m. E.T. on Wednesdays.

Mousing Around on the PC

IF YOU WANTED TO GET KIDS EXCITED about computers, you could take the time and trouble to design first-rate software that really turned them on. Or you could make computer mice shaped like cartoon characters. That's what Delta Millennium has done. Their mice are available in Mickey Mouse, Lion King, Little Mermaid and other Disney motifs for \$40 each.



A Pig with Perfect Timing

LOOKING FOR AN INTERACTIVE TOY that knows when to shut up? Real Live Babe (\$40), from Equity Marketing, is a plush pig that cracks wise, sings songs and makes chewing noises while it eats—all in synch with the time of day. Babe asks for pancakes in the morning, plays games in the afternoon and sings lullabies at night. With more than 100 recorded phrases and songs, this porker should amuse kids without driving parents totally insane. Best feature? Babe falls asleep at 9 p.m. and never wakes up before 6 a.m.



The Bike Path's Easy Riders

WHAT'S THE LATEST IN BIPEDAL transportation? How about relatively affordable (\$500 or less) "comfort bikes" with cushy seats, fat tires and—get this—automatic gears. At the Interbike show in Las Vegas this week, Shimano will demonstrate its new Auto-D electronic-shifting system on bikes from Bianchi, Schwinn, GT and others. The digital derailleur always starts off in the lowest gear and automatically shifts when a rider pedals faster or slower. It even has a parking-mode feature that locks the wheels until you enter a secret code to release them. —By Anita Hamilton



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Christine Gorman

Breast Cancer

An FDA panel recommends approval for two anti-tumor drugs. But you'd better read the fine print

BREAST CANCER IS ONE OF THOSE ILLNESSES THAT it pays to know at least as much about as your doctor does. There's always a new study, a conflicting report

or an experimental treatment to consider. Take last week's carefully worded advice about two anticancer drugs sent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by a panel of experts. If you don't pay close attention to the details, you could wind up doing yourself more harm than good.

In the first case, the advisory panel recommended that the FDA

expand its current approval of the breast-cancer drug tamoxifen to include women who don't have the disease but are at high risk of developing it. The panel did not endorse the idea, however, that tamoxifen actually "prevents" breast cancer, saying only that it might help reduce the risk over the short term. In the second, more straightforward decision, the panel urged approval of heceptin, a gene-based treatment for some forms of advanced breast cancer.

Let's start with the more complicated case. Doctors have used tamoxifen, first of the so-called designer estrogens, to treat breast cancer for 25 years. In that time, they've learned that the drug works by starving tumors that feed on estrogen. But could tamoxifen also stop a tumor before it starts? Last spring U.S. researchers reported with great fanfare that tamoxifen can indeed decrease the risk of developing breast cancer as much as 45%.

There were, however, some significant caveats in that report. Women who took tamoxifen developed uterine cancer twice as often as those who didn't, and three women died of blood clots probably triggered by the medication. For women who are fighting for their lives, those risks may be O.K., but they're a lot to ask of someone who isn't even sick. What's more, two smaller, European studies of tamoxifen published this summer found no preventive benefits at all.

So why did the FDA panel recommend expanded approval? Its report talked about giving women more options. But



Taking Tamoxifen's Measure

Pros:

- Reduces the risk of breast cancer 45% over the short term

Cons:

- Doubles the risk of uterine cancer
- Increases the risk of blood clots

national Cancer Institute has developed a computer program to help you and your doctor make sense of it. Further complicating the picture is the fact that tamoxifen's effects seem to wear out after five years. So when is the best time to take it? In your 30s? Your 40s? Your 50s?

There are two things to keep in mind as you try to sort this out. Many women think they're at high risk when they're not just because your aunt developed breast cancer doesn't mean you'll get it. Moreover, researchers are starting a new breast-cancer-prevention trial comparing tamoxifen with raloxifene, another anti-estrogen, which in limited testing showed fewer side effects.

As for heceptin, anything that can help women in the advanced stages of breast cancer is good news. It's not a cure and does nothing for the 70% of cases that don't involve the so-called HER-2 gene. But the drug has been in desperately short supply, and FDA approval should improve that situation. ■

See time.com/personal for more on breast cancer. Sign up for the NCI computer program at cancertrials.nci.nih.gov.

Good News on Sex

THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION approved a new "morning after" kit that can prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after intercourse. Consisting of four birth-control pills taken in two doses 12 hours apart, the treatment interferes with



ovulation but has no effect if a woman is already pregnant.

Bad News on St. J.'s Wort

ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH AN INDEPENDENT study commissioned by the *Los Angeles Times* tested 10 brands of St. John's Wort, the popular dietary supplement taken to alleviate depression, and found that seven of them had less active ingredient than promised on the label. Three brands delivered less than 50%.



Good News on Diarrhea

THE FDA APPROVED A VACCINE against rotavirus, the most common cause of severe diarrhea in children. About 3.5 million children in the U.S. are infected with rotavirus each year, resulting in 55,000 hospitalizations and as many as 40 deaths. The vaccine, which is manufactured by Wyeth Ayerst Laboratories, is recommended only for infants under the age of six months—at least for now.

Bad News on Fever

STICKING A THERMOMETER IN THE EAR may be the most civilized way to take an adult's temperature, but it may not be the best. A study of 406 patients in a Missouri hospital found that ear thermometers underestimated temperatures by an average of half a degree Fahrenheit and totally missed at least six cases of high fever. —C.G.



Sources: FDA (1), (2); L.A. Times, American J. of Infection Control



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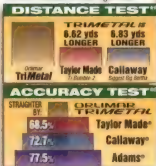


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Independent tests by golf's premier testing facility proved the Orlimar TriMetal to be longer and straighter than the most popular clubs on the market today. The TriMetal easily outdistanced the competition and had less dispersion for heel-toe hits. The results speak for themselves. The robot doesn't lie. Even with a two inch shorter shaft, the Orlimar TriMetal outperformed Taylor Made and Callaway in both distance and accuracy! Isn't it time you stepped up to the next level in distance and accuracy? You can with the Orlimar TriMetal. It's Not Oversize. It's the Right Size!^{1,2,3,4}



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Senior PGA Tour

Club Name	No. of Clubs	Percentage of Clubs
ORIMAR TRIMETAL	64	41.6%
2. Callaway	39	25.3%
3. Top Flite	12	7.8%
4. Taylor Made	9	5.8%
T5. Cobra	6	3.9%
T5. Adams	6	3.9%

*From actual club inventories reported by the Senior PGA Tour, as of 11/15/92.



Ken Venturi Joins Orlimar!

1964 US Open Champion and lead analyst for CBS golf telecasts has joined Orlimar Golf Company as a senior spokesman. "The new TriMetal is by far the best club I have ever hit. Try the TriMetal and you'll see why I know that this is the best club, and Orlimar is the last club company I'll ever endorse. There's just none better."

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¹Accuracy test is average dispersion on 100 yard shots, under wind to 10 mph. Distance tested: 171-45" Taylor Made Tri-Metal 8.83 yds longer. ²40" Callaway (average) vs. Orlimar. ³Accuracy test is average dispersion on 100 yard shots, under wind to 10 mph. Accuracy tested: 171-45" Taylor Made Tri-Metal 8.83 yds longer. ⁴Light Test is a registered trademark of Adams Golf.



LINDA MCCARTNEY: GUY AROCH/REUTERS/RETNA

Relative Talent

Maybe there should be a rack in record stores for Relatives of Famous Musicians. Last week it was announced that a posthumous album of the work of **LINDA MCCARTNEY**, whose considerable talents were widely held to exclude singing, will be released in November. Before she died earlier this year, McCartney made an album of songs she had recorded over the past 20 years. The album, *Wide Prairie*, could be joined in the Relatives rack by recent releases from Eagle-Eye Cherry, son of Don, brother of Neneh; Adam Cohen, son of Leonard; Bijou Phillips, daughter of Mamas & Papas John Phillips, and an upcoming one from Sally Taylor, daughter of James Taylor and Carly Simon. Hmm: Can Lourdes Ciccone hold a microphone yet?

Grumpy Old Man, Part One

CHARLTON HESTON, you adorably cranky gun-toting thing, you. Is it because you're president of the N.R.A. that you feel you can shoot from both hips? In an industry in which public criticism is an unforgivable faux pas if not a cardinal sin, you opened fire on two of show-biz-land's most beloved citizens. First there was the charming advice you told the *New York Daily News* you gave **ROBERT DE NIRO**, that he ought to do Shakespeare. "It's ridiculous for an actor that good to keep playing Las Vegas hoods. That's terrible,"



you said. Never mind that he's only actually played one Las Vegas hood. And then you opined that except for his roles in the movies *A Few Good Men* and *Five Easy Pieces*, all **JACK NICHOLSON**'s parts were the same. "You can't just do the same thing over and over," you said. Well, thanks for the words of wisdom. What's more, you might have added, neither of them has made any films with apes.



HESTON: ARNOLD BRONKHORST; NIRO: JEFF MAYER/RETNA; NICHOLSON: JEFF MAYER/RETNA



BORMAN: JEFF MAYER/RETNA; SCHIRRA: JEFF MAYER/RETNA; LOVELL: JEFF MAYER/RETNA; STAFFORD: JEFF MAYER/RETNA

GRUMPY OLD MEN, THE SEQUEL

One of the joys of being hoary of head is that you can speak frankly without grounding your career. So when *Vanity Fair* hunted down some astronauts to ask what they thought of John Glenn's jaunt into the great blue yonder, they were none too starry-eyed. "John Glenn a payload specialist? That's bulls...," said **FRANK BORMAN**, second from left. "NASA could get better data monitoring him for 10 days in bed." **WALLY SCHIRRA**, far left, was similarly wry. "I can think of several more Senators we should boost into space." Even **JIM LOVELL**, second from right, next to **TOM STAFFORD**, said the Glenn flight was all about p.r. But Eugene Cernan, the last human to moonwalk, differs. "I don't care if John just stares out the window for 10 days," he said. "He's earned it."

Acting Funny

How far into character is **JIM CARRY** going for *Man in the Moon*, the biopic on eccentric comedian **ANDY KAUFMAN**? "He's extraordinary," says Carol Kane, who plays herself in the film. Rumor has it that Carrey has asked for two trailers on the set, one for when he's playing Kaufman and one for when he's playing Kaufman's alter ego, Tony Clifton. Odd as this is, it's nothing on Kaufman. Apparently, when Kaufman was in character as the lizardly Clifton, he would eat food like red meat that the comic, who was a vegetarian, wouldn't normally touch. After such binges,



KARNEY: JEFF MAYER/RETNA; KAUFMAN: JEFF MAYER/RETNA

Kaufman would occasionally eat a length of cheesecloth to purge himself. (It's a yoga thing, evidently.) According to *USA Today*, Carrey was explaining this to new buddy Elton John, who was so amused he sent the comedian some cheese, red wine and packets of cheesecloth. No word yet on whether Carrey partook.



Is Empty In This Year?

Models and food: Who thought that would work? **CLAUDIA SCHIFFER** has become the second superthin cat-walker—Christy Turlington broke away last year—to pull out of Fashion Cafe. In a statement, Schiffer said her continued involvement was made "simply impossible" by "old problems" at the chain. Fashion Cafe founder Tommaso Buti has had prob-

lems paying bills, but a Cafe flack insists this wasn't why Schiffer left. It's another ripped seam for the eatery, which has recently seen closings of its Barcelona and New Orleans outlets. And, of course, there's a lawsuit. Investor Luigi Palma is suing Buti, claiming embezzlement, a claim Buti denies. Is it time for the other stiletto to drop?

Richard Corliss

These Are the Good Old Days

Step aside, Ruth and Maris—this is the golden age for America's pastime

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THIS EASY. BASEBALL ISN'T EASY; ask Michael Jordan. And hitting a home run can be very hard; ask Larry Bowa, who did it just 15 times in 16 productive major-league years. Think about it. You swing at a tiny ball thrown by a fellow who knows something you don't—where it will whiz past you and at what ferocious speed—and you hit it 350 ft. or more in the air. That is why the homer is baseball's most explosive event, an eruption of sex (the swing) and violence (the wallop) in a gentle sport. And that is why, of the 2,500 or so pitches a healthy player sees each season, so few are driven out of the yard. Once upon a time, in the year of Lucky Lindy and *The Jazz Singer*, a giant named Babe hit 60 homers. Decades later, decades ago, in J.F.K.'s first year as President, a man named Roger Maris spanked 61. Great hitters emerged before and since, but hardly anyone challenged the sacred stat.

So why, in major-league baseball's 123rd year, are two men—Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa—suddenly destined to cream the home-run record as if it were a pitiful little Rawlings sphere? And, dammit, with so little suspense! Since 1961, hot stovers have debated whether Maris' feat, in a 162-game season, truly equaled Ruth's in a 154-game span. But on Saturday, when McGwire pummeled his 60th homer against Cincinnati, his team was playing only its 141st game. Sosa had a just slightly less preposterous 58 dingers in 142 Cubs games. By the time you read this, one or both of these sluggers may have made a fan's anticipation meaningless. They had to hit only a few home runs in the next two weeks to pass Ruth, Maris and any new hope for record-book asterisks.

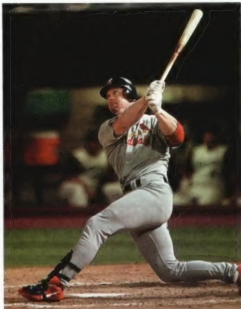
For some scrupulous folk, the news that for the past year McGwire has taken doses of androstenedione (which is either a muscle enhancer or Viagra in vitamin form) will forever place an ethical asterisk next to his achievement. Andro is legal in baseball—partly because the mouse men who run the game are unwilling to wrestle over drug policy with a balky and powerful players' union—but banned in other sports; last week the NFL suspended Paul Wiggins of the Pittsburgh Steelers for sampling andro over the summer. (Sosa was recently seen "hiding" a bot-

tle of Flintstones vitamins in his locker.) But how much extra fizz does the 6-ft. 5-in., 250-lb. McGwire need? He's always been a hefty guy, a goateed Gigantor, and his 49 homers in 1987, his first full season, are a rookie record. In 1995 he broke Ruth's season record, established 75 years before, for highest home-run percentage; his career percentage is second only to Ruth's. Besides, his four misses against the Florida Marlins last week averaged an astral 469 ft., which is greater even than the circumference of his biceps. With or without supplements, McGwire is pure

protein power: casein at the bat.

The boys of summer are bigger these days; that's one explanation for the homerpalooza. In workout rooms they sculpt their bodies like works of art and war, partly because they know the big hits generated by big muscles will earn them big bucks. Ruth knew that too, but he was able to belt taters while defiling the temple of his body. He indulged in illegal drugs (alcohol during Prohibition) and occasionally the illicit honey of a hooker's caress. No one seemed to mind. The Babe was a swaggering kid, a genius and a naif, having fun being the best. McGwire took some time reaching that state of athletic nirvana known as "the groove." For his good and the game's, he seems to be there now.

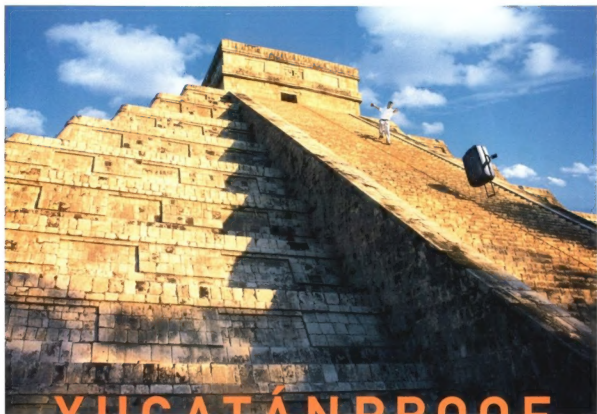
He and Sosa are likely to stay there, becoming the first non-Yankees to hold the homer record since



The Markman blasting his 58th against the Marlins

1919, when a Red Sox pitcher-outfielder named Ruth hit 29. They won't have diminished the Babe's achievements—partly because he was so much better than the best of his day. (In 1927, when Ruth smacked his 60, only one other player, Lou Gehrig, hit more than half that number.) And partly because baseball fans, the most traditional of mammals, believe deep in their atavistic hearts that then was better than now.

It will take some time for the long-ball Luddites to accept that these are the good old days—the days of damn Yankees, of pitching phenoms like El Duque and Kerry Wood, of a glorious Griffey, surely of the mad bombers McGwire and Sosa. We may have to wait 20 years—when, say, Matt McGwire, now 11 and a weekend bat boy for his father's team, threatens to hit 100 homers in a season—for reality to set in. Then the geezers will sigh and say, "Ahhhh, remember the glory of '98?" ■



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